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1 SEWARD PENINSULA FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL  
2 PUBLIC MEETING  
3 Kattimivak Center  
4 Unalakleet, Alaska  
5 February 5, 1997, 9:00 a.m.  
6 VOLUME I

7 Members Present:

8 Sheldon I. Katchatag, Chairman

9 Edgar Ningeulook

10 Grace Cross, Secretary

11 Fred Katchatag, Sr.

12 Peter G. Buck

13 Elmer Seetot, Jr.

14 Joe O. Garnie

15 Cliff Edenshaw, Coordinator

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P R O C E E D I N G S

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(On record)

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CHAIRMAN SHELDON KATCHATAG: Well, once again I'll call the Subsistence Regional Advisory Council to order. We're in official session convened here at that Kattimivak Center in Unalakleet, Alaska. It's the 5th of February at 9:15 a.m.

And will everyone please rise for invocation. Fred, would you give us invocation, please?

MR. FRED KATCHATAG: Let us all pray in our own way. Lord, Jesus, we thank you this morning. We have been waiting for this morning for a long while. Lord, we invite your Spirit to be with us in our meeting and may we all recognize that we are here only for a short time and life is very short. And, Lord, we pray that you would guide us through and make everyone respect each other. In Jesus name we ask, Amen.

CHAIRMAN SHELDON KATCHATAG: Thank you, Fred. Grace, will you call the roll, please?

MS. CROSS: Sheldon Katchatag.

CHAIRMAN SHELDON KATCHATAG: Here.

MS. CROSS: Grace Cross. Here. Edgar Ningeulook.

MR. NINGEULOOK: Here.

MS. CROSS: Theodore Katcheak.

CHAIRMAN SHELDON KATCHATAG: Excused.

MS. CROSS: Fred Katchatag, Sr.

MR. FRED KATCHATAG: Here.

MS. CROSS: Elmer K. Seetot, Jr.

CHAIRMAN SHELDON KATCHATAG: He'll be in later this morning.

MS. CROSS: Peter G. Buck.

MR. BUCK: Here.

MS. CROSS: Joe O. Garnie.



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1 MR. GARNIE: Here.

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3 MS. CROSS: Abraham Anasogak, Sr.

4  
5 CHAIRMAN SHELDON KATCHATAG: He is resigned.

6  
7 MS. CROSS: We do have a quorum.

8  
9 CHAIRMAN SHELDON KATCHATAG: Thank you, Madam  
10 Secretary.

11  
12 I'd like to welcome everybody here to the Winter  
13 Meeting of the Seward Peninsula Regional Advisory Council.  
14 We're here primarily to go over the proposals put forth at our  
15 October meeting in Nome, and plus a few little various and  
16 sundry other things that we have to take care of.

17  
18 I'd like to welcome you all to Unalakleet. I'm  
19 originally from here and the majority of my family is here. So  
20 it's like coming home for me, even though I live in Elim.

21  
22 I'd like to have everyone on the Council, starting from  
23 Mr. Katchatag over here introduce themselves and give a little  
24 history of who you are and what your relationship to  
25 subsistence is. And then once we do the Council, then we'll  
26 have general introductions and a welcome, probably first from  
27 the President of the local IRA, who just happens to be my  
28 father, Stanton (ph) Katchatag. So, like I said, this is old  
29 home week. Fred.

30  
31 MR. FRED KATCHATAG: I'm Fred Katchatag from  
32 Unalakleet, born and raised here in Unalakleet. I can recall  
33 in how many years ago now, November 5th, 1940, I was the very  
34 first one to be inducted into the Army service. And every  
35 since that time I've been acquainted with the needs of my own-  
36 self, with the needs of others, and trying to help my fellow  
37 citizens, even when I was in the service. I became a corporal  
38 a few months after I got in because the organization was very,  
39 very young and I happened to be respected to all the others  
40 that came to me. I was scared of the people because that was  
41 the first time I ever left my hometown, Unalakleet. That's why  
42 I think I behaved as good as I did. After that I didn't behave  
43 that good.

44  
45 But I've been involved with the IRA Council all my  
46 life. I've learned to go out and hunt and hunt for survival  
47 for my family. And my brother and I had a dad that was out  
48 pretty near all the time, all through the year hunting and  
49 fishing.



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1           And them days are gone now. We are facing something  
2 that is not very good for us as Natives of Alaska to be  
3 deprived of. We've learned to hunt and survive the cold winter  
4 months of Alaska without snow machines, without motors, without  
5 any help, only from the Lord. We push very hard, working hard  
6 out in the Bush. A lot of times our dogs would not -- did not  
7 want to understand what we're saying. But with all the  
8 hardships we have come this far.

9  
10           And, you know, we're human beings just like anyone  
11 else. We have a mortal body and we are all who are sitting in  
12 here, no matter who we are, we are subject to leave this world.  
13 And the only thing I can say that will give us survival for  
14 eternity over there, is Jesus himself. And I learned that from  
15 your folks that migrated into our village here from him. And  
16 I'm glad he came here. I'm glad he told this wonderful news.  
17 Our forefathers have lived without this not because they choose  
18 to live that way, but they didn't know any better. And now I'm  
19 glad all of us are here in the Subsistence Board, have a chance  
20 and hope for a wonderful life not down here but over there.

21  
22           I hope all of us will learn to get along. And it's  
23 going to be hard to do, but with the help of Jesus it's not  
24 impossible. Thank you.

25  
26           CHAIRMAN SHELDON KATCHATAG: Thank you, Mr. Katchatag.  
27 Grace.

28  
29           MS. CROSS: I'm Grace Cross. I live in Nome but I'm  
30 originally from the Village of Gambell. And my family has  
31 always been subsistence hunters, that's why I was interested in  
32 being with this group and that's the reason why I applied.  
33 Thank you.

34  
35           CHAIRMAN SHELDON KATCHATAG: Thank you, Grace. Peter.

36  
37           MR. BUCK: Yes. My name is Peter Buck, I'm from White  
38 Mountain, the IRA Council. And I'm interested in the Board  
39 because of the subsistence issues that's coming up where our  
40 main dependence is on subsistence for the White Mountain area  
41 and glad to be here. Thank you.

42  
43           CHAIRMAN SHELDON KATCHATAG: Thank you, Peter. Edgar.

44  
45           MR. NINGEULOOK: I am Edgar Ningeulook from Shishmaref.  
46 I am currently employed by Kawerak Tribal Affairs in technical  
47 assistance to seven IRA Councils. And most of us in the table  
48 have and are still practicing subsistence and some of you in  
49 the audience. But this past I'd say about 20 years I have been

50 involved in subsistence. We've provided surveys and research.

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1 And that's all I have.

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3 CHAIRMAN SHELDON KATCHATAG: Thank you, Edgar. Mr.  
4 Garnie.

5

6 MR. GARNIE: I'm Joe Garnie from Teller, Alaska. I was  
7 born and raised here all my life. The reason I got on this  
8 board is just subsistence is really important to us. So I just  
9 wanted to get in there and do the best I could. Thank you.

10

11 CHAIRMAN SHELDON KATCHATAG: Thank you, Joe. My name  
12 is Sheldon Katchatag. This is the last meeting of my second  
13 three year appointment to the Seward Peninsula Subsistence  
14 Regional Advisor Council. And I've been on this Council ever  
15 since it was first formed in 1993.

16

17 I was born in Anchorage but raised here in the  
18 Unalakleet River Valley. My first memories are from being  
19 camping on the river up here out gathering subsistence. And  
20 that's my first memories. And I've been very fortunate to have  
21 not only my parents, but also a very large extended family on  
22 both sides. Both my parents and my mother's and my father's  
23 side.

24

25 And I didn't think at the time that I would ever have  
26 to worry about anything called subsistence because when I was  
27 growing up I felt that we owned everything that we saw from  
28 here in the country. And I learned very early on by watching  
29 and doing, which is a customary and traditional way of  
30 teaching, how and why we gather resources. And my main concern  
31 is I'd like to make sure that not only that we continue to be  
32 able to practice customary and traditional use of renewable  
33 resources, but also that not only our children but also our  
34 grandchildren have the same opportunity and that the resources  
35 continue to remain healthy for them. And that's my main  
36 concern.

37

38 I'm thankful that I've had both of my parents to  
39 instruct me in the ways of customary and traditional use of  
40 resources all of 48 plus years. And with that I'd like to  
41 introduce my father, who just happens to be the President of  
42 the local IRA and hear a few words from him as far as welcome.  
43 Dad.

44

45 MR. STANTON KATCHATAG: Thank you, Sheldon. I'd like  
46 to welcome all the new Board members I see for this important  
47 program. That there are a lot of our people rely in this Board  
48 within all of regions of Unalakleet. These people rely on you  
49 all.





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1           With that I'd like to also welcome each one of you in  
2 behalf of the membership, everybody in Unalakleet. Not only in  
3 Unalakleet, I can go further because I am the past Chairman of  
4 Kawerak Board of Directors and the area covered from  
5 Shishmaref to Stebbins, along the coast including the Islands  
6 of St. Lawrence, Diomedes. Not only so, I can even go further  
7 than that. I have been involved and I'm still a  
8 (indiscernible) in the Rural Cap, which is the organization  
9 that have programs funded by different sources. And for that  
10 purpose I was asked to go to Nome and I was hoping to be here  
11 more and listen to what's going on here, but I have to go to  
12 Nome tomorrow. Probably this will be after the meeting because  
13 I'm trying to take the last flight to testify in support of  
14 community services a block grant which is under State of  
15 Alaska.

16  
17           Let me express to you the years that I have spent in  
18 trying to achieve, to promote our way of life as traditional  
19 people is becoming very, very difficult. I think you all know  
20 that. I will be in that meeting which is sponsored, more or  
21 less, by Rural Cap. It's called a round-table meeting. In  
22 Anchorage this takes place the 15th, 16th, 17th, a short time  
23 from now. And in that time we are going to try and defend our  
24 way of life.

25  
26           Let me express to you another thing. Traditionally we  
27 have no monetary system. By that I mean the people in the  
28 outlying villages does not rely on the bank funding for that  
29 matter. So to the people that I have personally represented  
30 over the years, one things has gone, another one, another one,  
31 so forth. I'd like to express to you that subsistence is the  
32 capital budget to our people both in the islands and inland  
33 and it is (indiscernible) system without no legislative cuts,  
34 until today.

35  
36           Before we have the State and Federal Agencies known as  
37 Congress and State of Alaska legislation, our system was free  
38 of the regulations. We were able to go out and fill our tables  
39 with food. I'd like to be here longer, but it is not uncommon  
40 for us to help others also. So my wife is planning on going  
41 ice fishing today under the same subsistence system, and I have  
42 to go down and get her ready so she can go.

43  
44           And for the afternoon we are scheduled to have our IRA  
45 Council meeting. So, unfortunately, I cannot be here that much  
46 today, but hopefully I will drop in again tomorrow.

47  
48           With that I'd like to repeat just what I said at the  
49 beginning; the people, traditional people from the very

50 smallest to the very eldest are relying on you and me. And

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1 without your help and without your understanding there's  
2 limited amount that each one of us can do, including the Board  
3 here, Federal Advisory Board.

4  
5 So with that I'd like to more or less encourage you, I  
6 hope that at least some of you will be able to listen to the  
7 round table in Anchorage. And, hopefully, we will be able to  
8 come to agreement. Our entire Alaska delegation, now  
9 unfortunately including our Governor, that really hurts me, our  
10 Governor the way he's acting now, and I don't have to put it to  
11 words, if you read the paper you know all about it. This is  
12 nothing less than harassment to our people.

13  
14 When are they going to stop harassing us? Or will we  
15 be frustrated by all. I think the only mistake or the error  
16 that the American Natives did was to go ahead and do what the  
17 personnel that came with Mayflowers do. The only reason why  
18 they went ahead and let them do what they did, I think is  
19 because customarily we are the people who shares, and we are  
20 the friends of all living. You've heard of friends of animals,  
21 they're harassing them. So we are the friends as Natives of  
22 all living, including live plants, the land. We don't consider  
23 wetlands or divide up and classify the lands. To us land is  
24 something that provides our daily needs, with the help of the  
25 All Mighty God, who is looking down at us at all times.

26  
27 With that I say welcome to Unalakleet once again and I  
28 hope that you will keep in mind those young people who are  
29 being served mostly under the Indian Child Welfare Act because  
30 they are unable, I say unable, some of them are not even able  
31 to speak, other than crying or yelling. The other ones are the  
32 elders who are in different homes, in different environment  
33 than what they have practiced in life and did as daily life.

34  
35 Then, finally, thirdly, there are some who are  
36 handicapped here and there. Keep those in mind, will you. And  
37 I thank you very much. Once more, I hope you will progress and  
38 achieve something; an understanding of our people. Thank you.

39  
40 CHAIRMAN SHELDON KATCHATAG: Thank you, Dad. I hope  
41 you folks get some idea of where I come from. That kind of  
42 roots, you can tell it runs deep. I'd like to now proceed with  
43 introductions of staff and for that I'll turn to Rosa Meehan  
44 who is the Fish and Wildlife Service lead. Rosa.

45  
46 MS. MEEHAN: Rose Meehan with the Office of Subsistence  
47 Management. And I'm on the management team in the office. And  
48 I'm really glad to have the opportunity to come out and meet  
49 with you and hear about your lifestyle and your lifestyle

50 setting. So I'm glad to be here.

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1 CHAIRMAN SHELDON KATCHATAG: Would you please introduce  
2 or we have a new biologist on staff.

3  
4 MS. MEEHAN: Yes. Thank you. I'd like to introduce to  
5 you and welcome Donna Dewhurst to this forum. Donna is our  
6 biologist, she is taking Steve Kovach's position. And Donna  
7 came to us from the Alaska (Indiscernible). She's been a  
8 Wildlife Biologist in Alaska for about 10 years with extensive  
9 field experience. And I look forward to having her talents  
10 serve us well in addressing many of the difficult issues out  
11 here. Donna, would you like to add anything?

12  
13 MS. DEWHURST: I've been with the Fish and Wildlife  
14 Service since '82. And when I moved to Alaska I spent the  
15 first few years in the West (Indiscernible), which is out at  
16 Amchitka (ph), about as far out as it gets. And then spent the  
17 past eight years in the King Salmon/Naknek area. So I've been  
18 living in the Bush for 10 years basically and been doing my  
19 share of hunting caribou and moose and everything else out  
20 there. So I can totally relate to what you go through to get  
21 these things. And I'm just hoping I can help out whenever I  
22 can.

23  
24 CHAIRMAN SHELDON KATCHATAG: Welcome, Donna, on behalf  
25 of the Council I'd like to welcome you to our technical staff.  
26 Appreciate the fact that you've been living out among the  
27 animals. That's something a little bit different than what  
28 we're used to. Would you introduce the rest of the staff?

29  
30 MS. MEEHAN: And the rest of the staff, we have Helen  
31 Armstrong, our Anthropologist, who has been working with this  
32 Council since the inception of the Council and, again,  
33 somebody's who talent or I'm very -- feel very fortunate to be  
34 able to work with.

35  
36 Cliff Edenshaw was new to the Council last meeting. He  
37 is the Coordinator for the Council. And Cliff is abbey going  
38 to help us keep things organized and pulled together. And I'm  
39 really pleased to be working with Cliff.

40  
41 And is is -- this group here represents the contingent  
42 from the Office of Subsistence Management here to help you do  
43 the business we need to do.

44  
45 CHAIRMAN SHELDON KATCHATAG: Thank you, Rosa. I'd like  
46 to introduce -- or have our Court Reporter introduce herself  
47 for the record.

48  
49 MS. WENZEL: It's a little hard to do, but my name is

50 Dorothy Wenzel. And this is the first big meeting that I am

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1 recording and it's been quite an experience so far. And  
2 hopefully this equipment will continue to function properly.  
3 And I think that's all I have to say.

4  
5 CHAIRMAN SHELDON KATCHATAG: Thank you, Dorothy.  
6 Welcome to Unalakleet. I'd like to go ahead and have everybody  
7 else that's on various Agency Staff introduce themselves and  
8 give us a little intro on what they're here for, and starting  
9 with Ms. Morkill. Anne.

10  
11 MS. MORKILL: My name is Anne Morkill. I'm a Wildlife  
12 Biologist with the Bureau of Land Management, Northern  
13 District, which is based out of Fairbanks and we have field  
14 offices in Nome and Kotzebue. And I've been working with the  
15 Council since it began and have been with BLM since '92.

16  
17 CHAIRMAN SHELDON KATCHATAG: One question, Anne. As  
18 you can see on the map, the farthest east map, the yellow area  
19 is BLM controlled land, is it not?

20  
21 MS. MORKILL: That's correct.

22  
23 CHAIRMAN SHELDON KATCHATAG: And is there a dividing  
24 line between the north and south area between like Fairbanks  
25 and Anchorage?

26  
27 MS. MORKILL: Yeah. It's probably the Unalakleet  
28 Drainage is included in the Anchorage district, and then  
29 everything north of there, basically Shaktoolik and the rest of  
30 Unit 22 is in the northern district. So that's why we have two  
31 staff here from BLM.

32  
33 CHAIRMAN SHELDON KATCHATAG: Okay. And who is the  
34 other BLM staff?

35  
36 MR. DENTON: I'm the other staff. My name is Jeff  
37 Denton, I'm a Subsistence Specialist and Biologist in the  
38 Anchorage District. I've been with the BLM Field Biologist  
39 role for 23 years. And before that with various game and fish  
40 departments in the Lower 48 for several other years beyond  
41 that.

42  
43 CHAIRMAN SHELDON KATCHATAG: Thank you, Jeff. Tim.

44  
45 MR. VIAVANT: My name is Tim Viavant, I'm a Sport Fish  
46 Biologist with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Sport  
47 Fish Division in Fairbanks. And mostly I've been involved in  
48 research in the Tanana and Yukon Drainage, but I have done some  
49 work in the Nome area in the last couple of years.





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1 CHAIRMAN SHELDON KATCHATAG: Charlie.

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3 MR. LEAN: Charlie Lean, I'm the Commercial Fisheries  
4 and Subsistence Manager for the Alaska Department of Fish and  
5 Game based in Nome. My areas that I work in include the  
6 Kotzebue Sound drainages, Norton Sound drainages. I'm a 25  
7 year, roughly, resident of the Seward Peninsula and lifelong  
8 Alaskan resident.

9

10 CHAIRMAN SHELDON KATCHATAG: Thank you, Charlie. Jake.

11

12 MR. OLANNA: I'm Jake Olanna, Sr. from Shishmaref, but  
13 I'm presently employed at Kawerak and have been a Subsistence  
14 Specialist since 1992 (ph).

15

16 CHAIRMAN SHELDON KATCHATAG: Thank you, Jake. Jim.

17

18 MR. MAGDANZ: My name is Jim Magdanz. I work with the  
19 Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Division of Subsistence.  
20 I've been in Northwest Alaska since 1979 and working with the  
21 Department of Fish and Game since 1981. And I'm involved in  
22 research in the Seward Peninsula and the Nenana regions.

23

24 CHAIRMAN SHELDON KATCHATAG: Thank you, Jim. Fred.

25

26 MR. TOCKTOO: My name is Fred Tocktoo\*\* and I work with  
27 the National Park Service. Born and raised in Shishmaref and  
28 I'm still practicing subsistence way of life although I see in  
29 the future sometime it sailing away. I still think there is a  
30 way for subsistence users to go on with what they're been  
31 practicing traditionally and especially with the  
32 (indiscernible).

33

34 CHAIRMAN SHELDON KATCHATAG: Thank you, Fred. Sandy.

35

36 MR. RABINOWITCH: My name is Sandy Rabinowitch. I work  
37 for the National Park Service and I serve on the Staff  
38 Committee to the Federal Subsistence Board. I've worked for  
39 the Park Service since 1983. Came to Alaska in 1976 and have  
40 always lived in Anchorage.

41

42 CHAIRMAN SHELDON KATCHATAG: Thank you, Sandy. Ken.

43

44 MR. ADKISSON: My name is Ken Adkisson. I work for the  
45 National Park Service, Bering Land Bridge National Preserve as  
46 a Subsistence Program Coordinator. Bering Land Bridge is the  
47 large purple colored area up in the middle of the northern part  
48 of the Seward Peninsula. You can see it on the map on the far  
49 right. And I've lived in Nome and worked for the Park Service

50 there since 1985.

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1 CHAIRMAN SHELDON KATCHATAG: Thank you, Ken. Catch  
2 everybody? Okay. Welcome to our Regional Advisory Council  
3 meeting. We now move on to Item 4 of our agenda, our review  
4 and adoption of agenda.

5  
6 First off, I'd like to move and ask unanimous consent  
7 from the Council that we move up Item 7(A)(5), the National  
8 Park Service. Sandy's told me that he will not be here  
9 tomorrow and just to make sure that he has not traveled to  
10 Unalakleet in vain I'd like to have his report moved up to  
11 7(A)(1) and the others pushed down. Is there any objection?  
12 Hearing none, so ordered. So the National Park Service will be  
13 Item 7(A)(1) and the others will be pushed down.

14  
15 On page 2, Item 8, I would like the present Item 3  
16 changed to 4. And I move and ask unanimous consent so that we  
17 can insert between the present 2 and 3, I would like that we as  
18 a Council deliver a Certificate of Appreciation to one of our  
19 former Council members who happens to live here in Unalakleet.  
20 His name is George Lockwood and the Fish and Wildlife Service  
21 has provided a Certificate of Appreciation and we will present  
22 that tomorrow. Hearing no dissent it's so ordered.

23  
24 And I would also move and ask unanimous consent that we  
25 add Item 5 under 8(B) and insert the Rural Cap Subsistence  
26 Round Table for Discussion. As my father stated, this will be  
27 occurring I believe it's the 17th, 18th -- or 16th, 17th.....

28  
29 MR. STANTON KATCHATAG: The 18th we'll be hopefully  
30 hearing from our different agencies, like the Congressional  
31 reps and Governor's reps and the Native leaders such as Joe  
32 Itkichak (ph) and others. So we'll be at least touching on  
33 what the proposals are. And the main reason will be as before,  
34 to try and come to concessions as Native unity, if there is  
35 any. I doubt at this point there will be any. It takes more  
36 heads than one to make amendments to what is known. That's the  
37 only protection that the Native people have any more. So as  
38 far as I know, 16th and 17th they'll have the round table,  
39 following the first day of hearing the proposals.

40  
41 CHAIRMAN SHELDON KATCHATAG: Thank you. And again  
42 that's the Rural Cap Subsistence Round Table, February 15, 16  
43 and 17. So that will be Item 8(B)(5). Are there any other  
44 changes or additions to the agenda?

45  
46 MR. FRED KATCHATAG: Mr. Chairman.

47  
48 CHAIRMAN SHELDON KATCHATAG: Mr. Katchatag.  
49

MR. FRED KATCHATAG: I wish that you would follow your

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1 agenda.

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3 CHAIRMAN SHELDON KATCHATAG: Yes, we intend to.

4

5 MR. FRED KATCHATAG: It's not nice to get a piece of  
6 paper that's called this agenda and start moving it on the last  
7 minute. This is not -- I don't go for this kind of a meeting  
8 at all. If we're going to have an agenda, we've got to follow  
9 the agenda and this way we don't get confused.

10

11 CHAIRMAN SHELDON KATCHATAG: Thank you, Mr. Katchatag.  
12 This, by the way, is a draft agenda and it's part of our  
13 process that we review and amend before we adopt it for our  
14 meeting. So we're well within our agenda to go ahead and do  
15 this.

16

17 We don't mean to bring up any issues that are not  
18 noticed, but we want to make sure that we make our meeting as  
19 comprehensive as possible.

20

21 Are there any other changes or additions to the draft  
22 agenda before us? Yes.

23

24 MS. DEWHURST: Under the E(1)(A), if we could add -- I  
25 could give a briefing on the recent musk ox extension on the  
26 hunt for the Seward Peninsula?

27

28 CHAIRMAN SHELDON KATCHATAG: What number is that?

29

30 MS. DEWHURST: New business.

31

32 MS. MEEHAN: New business, 8(B).

33

34 CHAIRMAN SHELDON KATCHATAG: 8(B). Okay. Let's make  
35 it 4(A). Item 4 is a report from the Cooperative Musk Ox  
36 Meeting and then (A) would be the extension on the hunt.

37

38 MS. DEWHURST: Okay. I agree with that. Jeff.

39

40 MR. DENTON: Yeah, Mr. Chairman, if it would please the  
41 Council, there's a couple of us who have to be -- I have to be  
42 at the Southcentral Meeting tomorrow, at their Council meeting  
43 tomorrow. So the agency reports under (C)(2) -- 8(C)(2) I  
44 would indulge the Council to allow us to make those reports  
45 sometime today.

46

47 CHAIRMAN SHELDON KATCHATAG: Okay. Mr. Denton from BLM  
48 would like to have at least his portion of the BLM report moved  
49 up to today. And the Chair would seek and ask unanimous

50 consent that we move Item 8(C)(2), the BLM report, to 7 --

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1 well, we'll make it Item 8 for today's agenda. BLM report  
2 after old business. 7 is old business. We move on to 8, and  
3 we will move Item 8(C)(2) to the first page, the BLM Southern  
4 District. Okay. Both Southern and Northern. So we will just  
5 have the BLM as Item 8(C)(2) on first page. And we'll keep  
6 that designation so that we know where on the agenda you have  
7 moved from. Are there any other time crunches, Mr. Adkisson?

8  
9 MR. ADKISSON: No.

10  
11 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Welcome Elmer.

12  
13 MR. SEETOT: Good morning.

14  
15 CHAIRMAN SHELDON KATCHATAG: Good morning. I see you  
16 finally made it in. You could probably sit over here by Fred  
17 or over here if you'd like, wherever. Here, Elmer. And as  
18 soon as he takes his seat I'd like to welcome him to our Seward  
19 Peninsula Subsistence Regional Advisory Council. This is Elmer  
20 Seetot, Sr., from Brevig Mission. I'd ask that he give a brief  
21 introduction of who he is and what his interest in subsistence  
22 is. And, welcome, Elmer.

23  
24 MR. SEETOT: Thank you. I'm sorry I'm late.

25  
26 CHAIRMAN SHELDON KATCHATAG: No problem.

27  
28 MR. SEETOT: Elmer Seetot, Jr., from Brevig Mission.  
29 I'm a subsistence hunter pretty much. My service expires this  
30 year so I will be (indiscernible).

31  
32 CHAIRMAN SHELDON KATCHATAG: Welcome, Elmer. We are  
33 now in the process of reviewing and adopting our agenda. I'll  
34 catch you up on the changes so far. Basically we've added Item  
35 8(C)(2), we moved BLM up from February 5 to February 4. We've  
36 added under new business Item 8(B). We've added a new (3),  
37 Certificate of Appreciation for George Lockwood, who is a  
38 former Council member, and we've added Item 8(B)(5), the Rural  
39 Cap Subsistence Round Table, February 15th, 16th and 17th.

40  
41 Are there any other changes or amendments to the  
42 agenda? Are there any other staff that have time crunches that  
43 need to be addressed? Hearing none, the Chair will entertain a  
44 motion to adopt the agenda as amended.

45  
46 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: So moved.

47  
48 CHAIRMAN SHELDON KATCHATAG: We have a motion before us  
49 to adopt our agenda as amended. Is there a second?





0014

1 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Second.

2

3 CHAIRMAN SHELDON KATCHATAG: Second. All those in  
4 favor of adoption of our agenda as amended, signify by saying  
5 aye?

6

7 IN UNISON: Aye.

8

9 CHAIRMAN SHELDON KATCHATAG: All those opposed, nay?

10

11 (No opposing responses)

12

13 CHAIRMAN SHELDON KATCHATAG: Motion passes unanimously.  
14 Before we move on our agenda I'd like to welcome the two people  
15 just walked in the door and ask them to introduce themselves  
16 for the record. Maybe we need a microphone.

17

18 MS. DICKSON: I was here for the (indiscernible)  
19 meeting last night and this provides an opportunity for me to  
20 sit in on your meeting today.

21

22 CHAIRMAN SHELDON KATCHATAG: Welcome.

23

24 MS. DICKSON: Thank you.

25

26 MR. DENTON: Chuck Denton, Unalakleet.

27

28 CHAIRMAN SHELDON KATCHATAG: Is that it? Welcome,  
29 Chuck. Let's now move on in our agenda to Item 5, Review and  
30 Adoption of Minutes of our October 1 and 2 meeting. And they  
31 are under Tab C in your booklets. Quickly review those.

32

33 (Pause)

34

35 CHAIRMAN SHELDON KATCHATAG: Are there any changes or  
36 amendments to the minutes of our last meeting? Mr. Seetot.

37

38 MR. SEETOT: Next to the last place my surname should  
39 be corrected.

40

41 CHAIRMAN SHELDON KATCHATAG: Okay. It's the fourth  
42 paragraph down. Please change the K in Seetot. It should be  
43 Seetot. Any other corrections or additions or amendments to  
44 the minutes?

45

46 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Where was it?

47

48 CHAIRMAN SHELDON KATCHATAG: Pardon?

49

MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Where was it?

0015

1 CHAIRMAN SHELDON KATCHATAG: It was on the next to the  
2 last page, fourth paragraph from the top. And it begins  
3 Council member and it should be S-e-e-t-o-t, instead of S-e-e-  
4 t-o-k.

5  
6 MR. SEETOT: Mr. Chairman, again on the fourth page.

7  
8 CHAIRMAN SHELDON KATCHATAG: Fourth page.

9  
10 MR. SEETOT: First paragraph. Same problem.

11  
12 CHAIRMAN SHELDON KATCHATAG: The second sentence of the  
13 first paragraph should be Mr. Seetot. On the third to the last  
14 page, the third topic is musk ox update and it should be 1(F)  
15 in Shishmaref instead of 2. Are there any other additions or  
16 corrections to the minutes of our last meeting? Hearing none  
17 the Chair will entertain a motion to adopt our minutes.

18  
19 MS. CROSS: I so move.

20  
21 CHAIRMAN SHELDON KATCHATAG: We have a motion before us  
22 to adopt the minutes of our last meeting.

23  
24 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Seconded.

25  
26 CHAIRMAN SHELDON KATCHATAG: Seconded. All those in  
27 favor, signify by saying aye.

28  
29 IN UNISON: Aye.

30  
31 CHAIRMAN SHELDON KATCHATAG: All those opposed, nay?

32  
33 (No opposing responses)

34  
35 CHAIRMAN SHELDON KATCHATAG: Motion passes unanimously.  
36 Okay. We now open our floor to public comments on the Federal  
37 Subsistence Management Program. For the record I would like  
38 anyone in attendance to know that this opportunity continues  
39 throughout our meeting on whatever item that we might be  
40 discussing. The only time that the floor is closed to public  
41 comment is when we are actually moving to take some action on  
42 any item before us. And then it becomes a matter of the  
43 Council. But in discussion, anything in that regard we're  
44 opened to the public. Is there anyone here that would like to  
45 make any comments on the Federal Subsistence Management  
46 Program? Hearing none, we now move on to Item 7, old business.

47  
48 We moved Sandy up, so we're going to Item 7, the new  
49 one. Sandy. Probably up here I guess. Both Sandy and Ken I

50 see.

0016

1 MR. RABINOWITCH: Yeah, Ken knows everything that I  
2 don't know.

3  
4 CHAIRMAN SHELDON KATCHATAG: Good. Mr. Rabinowitch.

5  
6 MR. RABINOWITCH: Again, my name is Sandy Rabinowitch,  
7 I work for the National Park Service in Anchorage. And Ken  
8 Adkisson, I think you all know, for Bering Land Bridge Preserve  
9 in Nome.

10  
11 This is really a repeat item and it's actually in your  
12 meeting notes that we just reviewed. There's a good  
13 description of basically the report last time on this same  
14 issue. I think it's very accurately stated in your minutes.

15  
16 There's a copy of the paper under Tab H and I'll let  
17 you flip to that. It looks like this if anyone's not finding  
18 it. At the very top it should say Reviewer Comments, the very,  
19 very top of it. Make sure everybody follows along.

20  
21 What this paper is, is an internal to the National Park  
22 Service effort to try to review our understanding of ANILCA and  
23 how we're supposed to operate under it. And also an internal  
24 review of the Park Service's own regulations. Some of the  
25 Federal Board agencies have specific subsistence regulations  
26 and some don't. The Park Service does, it has since 1981. So,  
27 again, the effort is -- there's nothing that forces the Park  
28 Service to do this. It's as an agency chosen to spend quite a  
29 bit of time over the last few years in sort of quiet,  
30 thoughtful manner, trying to review the status of what's gone  
31 on in the last I guess it's 17 years now. We're just into the  
32 17th year since ANILCA was passed.

33  
34 The paper that you've got in front of you has gone in  
35 front of the Regional Councils twice, and with this round of  
36 winter meetings it's going back in front of all the Regional  
37 Councils the third time. It has been distributed pretty  
38 broadly around the State by the local Park offices to Native  
39 Corporations, the Regional Corporations, Village Corporations,  
40 and literally anyone else that the Park Service that could find  
41 that would be interested in it.

42  
43 So far the comment -- or, actually, until very recently  
44 the comments received have been very, very few. I think after  
45 the first year there were only two or three comments that had  
46 come in. So it sort of wasn't getting too exciting it seemed I  
47 guess is a way I could joke about it. But very recently now  
48 there's been kind of an in-flow of comments. And in this  
49 document that you've got in front of you, which is actually a

50 little bit hard to read, but I've marked up in my book, and I

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1 can pass this around if anyone wants, where these little green  
2 just marks all the places where comments have been inserted.  
3 And the author of the comments have been identified.

4  
5 So the only difference in this paper from the last time  
6 you saw it until today is that these comments, from people who  
7 have written them down and sent them in, are included here. So  
8 you can see what the State said, you can see what our working  
9 group in Kotzebue said, and you can see what the Sierra Club  
10 said, and anyone else who's commented are just all in here.

11  
12 And when I review the comments it's my opinion, yours  
13 certainly may be different, but it's my opinion that some of  
14 the comments are in conflict with each other. And that's just  
15 the way it is. But the point I guess is that if you do take  
16 the time to read these, it's probably important to read several  
17 of them because you may agree with one and disagree with  
18 another and you'll see that there are different arguments I  
19 think are presented and they're often at odds with each other.

20  
21 So I think when you look at this and read through it  
22 it's probably a little more daunting because it's gotten longer  
23 because the comments have been added. So there's simply more  
24 text to read. And I think visually when you look at it it's  
25 kind of a little confusing. At least to me it is. And all I  
26 can say is the goal was to try to share what comments have come  
27 in. So I don't know if that's better or worse, but that's  
28 where we're at with this copy of the document.

29  
30 We are still doing the same thing and seek the same  
31 thing we did the last two times, and that is, if you have any  
32 comments about this, that our goal is to capture those  
33 comments. If you've got questions, we're certainly happy to  
34 answer them, if Ken and I can, and if we can't, we'll find the  
35 answer out and get back to you.

36  
37 The document does have, and I marked the first place  
38 where it occurred, on page 5, in about the middle of page 5 you  
39 see the words action items. Throughout the document you see  
40 action items several times. This again is just the first place  
41 that it shows up. I've tried to suggest to people that those  
42 are things that they might focus on because as the Park Service  
43 has worked this paper up these are areas where people within  
44 the Park Service have thought that there might be some changes  
45 in Park Service regulations that need to occur. Doesn't mean  
46 that they will occur, I want to stress that. There's no rigid  
47 time table to make any kind of changes or change regulations,  
48 but the possibility certainly does exist. Okay. So that's one  
49 area where, you know, if this is of interest you may want to



50 focus.

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1           At the very beginning of the paper, right on the first  
2 page or two, there's a policy statement, that may be of  
3 interest. You may agree or disagree with that. Or you may  
4 have some suggestions on how to make it a better statement.  
5 And then ultimately anything in this paper of course is open to  
6 comment.

7  
8           I think what the Park Service has learned is that, as  
9 you all know, many people in the Federal Government come and  
10 go, and come and go, you know, they move to Alaska and then  
11 they move away from Alaska and so there's a constant need to  
12 educate people within the government. And that's one of the  
13 things that this effort is helping us to do, just quietly,  
14 internally, is as new people come in and they read through this  
15 and ask questions, we hopefully educate the Park Service  
16 employees. But I believe that we believe that's not enough,  
17 that this needs to be shared with people who have to live with  
18 the results, which is why we're here, because that's really the  
19 bottom line.

20  
21           And so if there are things in there that you think are  
22 wrong or bad or ill-founded, or whatever, I think those are  
23 things that are particularly important for us to hear about.

24  
25           Where this is all going, and I'll try to stop here in a  
26 moment, where this is all going is that in April we will take  
27 all the comments that we've gotten and sit down and try to make  
28 some sense of what changes, if any, the Park Services thinks is  
29 needed in its own regulations. And there may be none, or there  
30 may be a whole bunch. I absolutely don't know. I don't think  
31 there's any sort of strong feeling yet within the Park Service.  
32 I think we're honestly just trying to talk with people and I  
33 think the best talking has gone on at a very local level, a lot  
34 of one on one discussions. I think that's kind of where the  
35 rubbers meet in the road and things have been most productive.

36  
37           Maybe I should stop at that point because I know you've  
38 got a busy day. I don't want to rattle on here. I think I'll  
39 stop and see if you've got question. I don't know, Ken, if  
40 I've missed anything you think is important.

41  
42           MR. ADKISSON: No. Only maybe as kind of some  
43 background. Some of this probably came about as a result of  
44 say along some of the rail belt area and in Southcentral Alaska  
45 and stuff. Since ANILCA was passed in 1980, a number of these  
46 communities, especially road-connected communities have grown  
47 in population quite extensively. It raised the question of  
48 eligibility and a growing number of potential subsistence users  
49 and the impacts of that growing number on the resources.



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1           The Park Service has some unique things in subsistence  
2 that normally don't fall under the Federal Board's area of  
3 concerns. Use of time, for example, for firewood and cabins,  
4 the construction of cabins especially in relation to trap lines  
5 and so forth, some of the ATV use questions. And so the Park  
6 Service was having some real problems in trying to develop  
7 responses to these emerging problems and part of this was an  
8 effort to review the existing regulations and laws, as Sandy  
9 pointed out, and try to develop some statewide consistent  
10 approach to some of the issues.

11  
12           I might also add that there is basically three kinds of  
13 Park Conservation Units under ANILCA in the State. Those are  
14 National Parks, National Monuments and National Preserves. We  
15 only have the Bering Land Bridge National Preserve out here  
16 which falls within the area of immediate concern for this  
17 group.

18  
19           National Parks and Monuments are distinguished from  
20 Preserves basically because the only form of hunting and  
21 trapping that's allowed within National Parks and Monuments is  
22 subsistence-related. There is no sport hunting or general  
23 trapping. And in National Preserves, like Bering Land Bridge,  
24 we do provide for sport hunting and we do provide for general  
25 trapping under ANILCA. And that's probably the two biggest  
26 differences between those, those two units.

27  
28           There are probably maybe another important point to  
29 point out about Parks and Monuments. There are existing Park  
30 Service regulations dealing with eligibility. These involve  
31 the concepts of defining resident zones, or resident  
32 communities for roster lists of people who are eligible for  
33 subsistence uses within those Park units. We don't have that  
34 restriction for National Preserves. You'll find in here that  
35 there was discuss of whether we should and some folks felt we  
36 ought to have the same kind of regulations for National  
37 Preserves as that are currently on the books for National Parks  
38 and Monuments. And so the question of eligibility is an  
39 important one.

40  
41           Some of our other folks felt that the existing Federal  
42 system was adequate and that we could, you know, work with like  
43 the regional Council here on these kinds of issues and that we  
44 didn't need Subsistence Resource Commissions which Parks and  
45 Monuments have, and another layer of bureaucracy. So the  
46 eligibility is one area of concern. I think probably important  
47 concern.

48  
49           CHAIRMAN SHELDON KATCHATAG: Any comments or questions

50 from the Council for Sandy or Ken?

0020

1 MR. FRED KATCHATAG: I have one question.

2

3 CHAIRMAN SHELDON KATCHATAG: Mr. Katchatag.

4

5 MR. FRED KATCHATAG: What happens when the comments  
6 are.....

7

8 MR. RABINOWITCH: Come in?

9

10 MR. FRED KATCHATAG: Are versing each other? What do  
11 you do with it; you drop it or.....

12

13 MR. RABINOWITCH: Every comment that's come in so far  
14 is presented here, so far. Okay. And any additional comments  
15 that come in, including any you make here will be added to  
16 this. So this version -- this will kind of get fatter.....

17

18 MR. FRED KATCHATAG: When one comment versus the other,  
19 what do you with that?

20

21 MR. RABINOWITCH: How do we decide, yeah? I  
22 understand. I don't have a magic answer. I think what we are  
23 going to do is we are going to sit down and discuss when they  
24 are conflicting and try to analyze which one seems to -- or  
25 parts of both, perhaps, make the most sense. But we don't have  
26 a formula which says this group wins or this group loses, or  
27 anything.

28

29 We certainly have to follow ANILCA. That's a given.  
30 And that's probably the primary decision basis in my mind. So  
31 if a commentor said something in here, I'll just make one up,  
32 it's not here, if somebody said there shouldn't be subsistence  
33 in the National Parks, that comment would probably be thrown  
34 out -- not probably, it would be thrown out because ANILCA says  
35 there is. But that's an easy example for me to make up and  
36 some of these in here are a little trickier. I'm sure when you  
37 look at them you realize that there's fine edges in here and a  
38 lot of -- a lot of technical things.

39

40 So I know I've not given you a this is who wins or  
41 loses answer, but it won't work that way. It'll be trying to  
42 analyze what makes the most sense, what's within the law. And  
43 I think it is safe for me to predict that we will be back with  
44 this document I don't know how many times. I don't know how  
45 many times you want to hear about this from the Park Service,  
46 but I think we'll keep coming back in the years to come and  
47 keep you apprised of the progress on this.

48

49 And so perhaps as some of these issues clash and as we

50 begin to make some decisions, perhaps that will be, you know,

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1 particularly interesting because then, you know, you may see  
2 something and either strongly agree with it or strongly object  
3 to it. I think it's safe to say we're going to move slowly.  
4 You know, the sky isn't falling from our perspective here. And  
5 I think we will move slowly to make any changes that may be  
6 made.

7  
8 MR. FRED KATCHATAG: Can you tell us exactly the  
9 meaning of Park Service and why it's there?

10  
11 MR. RABINOWITCH: I'll try. There's legislation from  
12 the Congress and it was written in 1916, that says why there's  
13 a National Park Service in the United States. And the language  
14 I can't quote it from memory. I don't have it completely in my  
15 head. But I believe that I can summarize it by saying that the  
16 Congress decided that they wanted to have -- it started with  
17 one Park, which was Yellowstone, and then from that created a  
18 system.

19  
20 They wanted to have places that they considered to be  
21 special and unique and they wanted to set those aside so they  
22 weren't, I don't know, turned into farms and ranches and  
23 whatever was, you know, going on at the time in the Lower 48.  
24 And my summary is that the Parks are there to preserve and  
25 protect the resources that are within them.

26  
27 MR. FRED KATCHATAG: Within the Park?

28  
29 MR. RABINOWITCH: Within the Park. And one of the  
30 important things Ken and I were just mentioning this morning,  
31 one of the things that ANILCA says is the purpose of the Parks  
32 in Alaska is subsistence, is it an Alaska lifestyle. So it's  
33 not just the plants or animals. I think in Alaska the law says  
34 it's the people too.

35  
36 MR. FRED KATCHATAG: Who set (indiscernible)? It is  
37 Congress?

38  
39 MR. RABINOWITCH: Yes.

40  
41 MR. FRED KATCHATAG: And is it true that the entity of  
42 Congress and the second was Rural Cap?

43  
44 MR. RABINOWITCH: I'm sorry?

45  
46 MR. FRED KATCHATAG: Is it true that another entity,  
47 like Rural Cap, is the Rural Cap just under Congress?

48  
49 MR. RABINOWITCH: No, I don't believe so. No. I'm not



50 -- I think Rural Cap exists because its members choose it to

0022

1 be. I'm not familiar with the origin of Rural Cap.

2

3 CHAIRMAN SHELDON KATCHATAG: Rural Cap was originally  
4 -- came out of funding to promote grass roots action in Alaska,  
5 and basically that's how it got its name. And supposedly it  
6 was first -- I think it was originally Federally funded to  
7 promote activities in the villages and communities, you know,  
8 in Rural Alaska to make sure that the concerns of the villagers  
9 are heard. And it's more or less evolved into a statewide non-  
10 profit that receives funding I think it's both from the Feds  
11 and the State.

12

13 It's basically an advocacy group now. Instead of  
14 forming little action groups in each little village, they  
15 decided that it would be easier to have delegates from all over  
16 the State sit on the board and have one statewide organization  
17 rather than a bunch of little organizations in all the little  
18 villages around the State. But it's basically there to promote  
19 the concerns of Rural Alaska on issues at the State and Federal  
20 level. But it's not either a Federal or a State organization.  
21 It's like a statewide non-profit organization.

22

23 MR. FRED KATCHATAG: I have one more question. If  
24 there was no Rural Cap then, the rural people would not be  
25 heard in Congress, right?

26

27 CHAIRMAN SHELDON KATCHATAG: Well, they'd be heard  
28 still but it'd be a little bit more difficult. Because some  
29 area like Denali have very active regional organizations that  
30 promote what they consider the best interests of their rural  
31 people. And then there's other organizations, like regional  
32 non-profits, like Kawerak and AVCP and Tglingit-Haida Central  
33 Council that do the same thing on a regional level. So if  
34 there wasn't a Rural Cap I'm sure that the regional non-profits  
35 would probably fill the void that Rural Cap would leave. And  
36 correct me if I'm wrong, Jake. I get a nod of agreement from  
37 our Kawerak rep over here. So I'm apparently close to the  
38 mark.

39

40 MR. BUCK: Sandy, does that review then go to the IRA  
41 Councils?

42

43 MR. RABINOWITCH: Yes. Ken and I both have a handful  
44 of copies and if you want any more copies we're happy to hand  
45 them to you.

46

47 MR. ADKISSON: They've been made available several  
48 times. I mean frankly they're hard to read, hard to  
49 understand. And, as Sandy pointed out, very little comments

50 came back. And I were to poll the IRA's today, I doubt if most

0023

1 of them would even remember having gotten them, let alone gone  
2 through them and commented on them.

3  
4 MR. RABINOWITCH: One thing, again, Ken and I were just  
5 talking about this morning, one thing that I think I'm seeing  
6 around the State is that where we have Parks and Monuments, as  
7 I'm sure you're all aware, ANILCA sets up Subsistence Resource  
8 Commissions for each Park and each Monument. And those bodies  
9 are very similar to this body that you are part of. Local  
10 people who advise in this case the Park Service, the SRC,  
11 Subsistence Resource Commission. They advise the Park  
12 Secretary and, in fact, the Secretary of Interior, just as you  
13 advise the Federal Subsistence Board. So it's kind of parallel  
14 to your role, but they focus just on an individual Park and  
15 just on individual monuments.

16  
17 Where we have Subsistence Resource Commissions around  
18 the State, we've been doing the very same thing that we're  
19 doing here. And they have in the past well six or eight months  
20 particularly, been trying to schedule an increased number of  
21 meetings, you know, more than regular, and spend like a whole  
22 day going through this document. And I think in some cases  
23 that they've even met like for two days, and just gone through  
24 word by word, line by line. And you'll see those comments  
25 written down in here.

26  
27 It seems to me that it takes that kind of energy and  
28 time, which is a big -- you know, it's a lot of time, that  
29 that's where things are starting to bubble up. And we've got a  
30 lot more to do. In fact, there are several more of those  
31 meetings scheduled just in the weeks to come around the State.  
32 So those local groups -- I know the Wrangell's group, the Lake  
33 Clark group and the -- there's one other, I'm forgetting which  
34 but, anyway, they've got meetings just in the next couple of  
35 weeks where their main agenda -- oh, Aniakchak actually is  
36 meeting right now as we speak in Chignik. And so they're  
37 focusing on this and those comments will come forth.

38  
39 MR. ADKISSON: Let me give you maybe one concrete  
40 example of why I think this whole thing is important to you  
41 folks and try to tie it into Fred's question.

42  
43 National Parks were created by Congress basically to  
44 preserve outstanding nationally significant natural, cultural  
45 and historical resources. And at the same time preserving  
46 those resources, to provide for their public use of those  
47 resources in such ways as to basically leave those resources  
48 unimpaired for future generations.

49

Now the way we interpret that mandate for our ANILCA

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1 Parks up here, is that we should manage the fish and wildlife  
2 and habitat in those Park units in such a way as basically to  
3 be able to maintain a viable subsistence way of life off those  
4 resources.

5 Where this kind of gets critical to you folks is, is in  
6 how certain things are interpreted. ANILCA, for example, when  
7 it talks about Bering Land Bridge says that one of the purposes  
8 of the Preserve is to preserve the viability of the subsistence  
9 resource. That's all it really says. Therefore, we take our  
10 guidance in subsistence management from the general provisions  
11 of ANILCA or from Title VIII, which is the subsistence  
12 provision.

13  
14 Let me give you a concrete example of how some Parks  
15 and Monuments differ. When, for example, you look at Gates of  
16 the Arctic National Park sort of straddling up near the Brooks  
17 Range and the North Central part of the State, there's a big  
18 purple area kind of right in the top third of it there, that's  
19 Gates, I think, or is it -- yeah, that's Gates of the Arctic.  
20 In its legislation it says that the Park Service will allow  
21 subsistence where traditionally practiced.

22  
23 Now, there's a big debate, if you look in this document  
24 you'll find that the Gates of the Arctic Subsistence Resource  
25 Commission says that should mean the entire Park. On the other  
26 hand you'll find that the Sierra Club says, that means where  
27 people have been documenting using that portion of the Park in  
28 1980 and right before.

29  
30 What that means is there are folks that want to zone  
31 Gates of the Arctic National Park to say this is an area where  
32 in the Park you can practice subsistence, this is an area where  
33 you can't. Well, right now for Bering Land Bridge if you're an  
34 eligible subsistence user, you can go anywhere in Bering Land  
35 Bridge National Preserve and practice subsistence with almost  
36 no restrictions.

37  
38 There are folks who want to take that debate over Gates  
39 of the Arctic and extend that to the Park, to the Preserve. So  
40 that someday somebody's going to come and say to you, this is  
41 maybe an area of the Preserve that's zoned for subsistence and  
42 this is an area that's not. So I mean, you know, there are  
43 some real implications in this document that I think need to be  
44 looked at.

45  
46 MR. RABINOWITCH: I would just add to that, really  
47 repeat that there's nothing that's going to close or stop in  
48 the immediate future here. I think we're going to work on this  
49 for a long time. And as you, you know, digest this, find parts

50 that you agree with and really want to make us aware that you

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1 support, you want to keep something the way it is, or if you  
2 find something that looks pretty bad and you don't want us to  
3 make some changes and make the world worse, you know, tell us.  
4 You know when you see Ken talk to him, tell him, or you see  
5 Fred Tocktoo over here, you know, tell him.

6  
7 I just encourage you to basically keep talking with us  
8 about it as you want to.

9  
10 MR. FRED KATCHATAG: Now, I have one more question for  
11 Adkisson here. You said that there is one place where you can  
12 subsist. And why is it that this person that can subsist in  
13 one place cannot subsist in Bering Land Bridge?

14  
15 MR. ADKISSON: Well, I'm not quite -- let me try to  
16 maybe get at that. Right now the only requirements for  
17 subsistence use within Bering Land Bridge is that you're an  
18 eligible subsistence user. And ANILCA basically talks in terms  
19 of local rural residents, but we really don't have a definition  
20 of who is local. So one of the things that we use in the  
21 Preserve is we look to guidance, for example, to the customary  
22 and traditional use determinations.

23  
24 There are two examples I'll give you right now from  
25 that is who can or cannot. If you look at the Federal  
26 Regulation booklet for customary and traditional use and you  
27 look at moose, you'll find that all residents of Unit 22 have  
28 customary and traditional use of the moose in Unit 22. So that  
29 means as long as you're basically a Seward Peninsula resident  
30 living within Unit 22, you have customary and traditional use  
31 for moose and you could go hunt moose in Bering Land Bridge  
32 National Preserve.

33  
34 On the other hand if you look at musk oxen in the  
35 Federal Regulation book, you find that there's a C&T  
36 determination that says basically you have to be a resident of  
37 one of the villages within the appropriate sub-unit. So if you  
38 look at Unit 22(E), the only people who can hunt musk oxen on a  
39 Federal subsistence permit in Unit 22(E) are the residents of  
40 Shishmaref and Wales. So that's the way the restrictions work  
41 now. And there are no other restrictions right now, other than  
42 the customary and traditional usage determination, or what we  
43 call Section 804, which is what do you do if there aren't  
44 enough resource to go around. There are certain things you're  
45 supposed to follow to basically allocate the resource. Other  
46 than that it's completely open.

47  
48 And, you know, we're not talking about zoning the  
49 Preserve in any other way. But there are debates that are



50 going on over Parks and Monuments of where people used to

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1 subsist and where they should be allowed to do so now. And  
2 personally I don't want to see that debate come down to the  
3 Preserve and I think somebody ought to tell the Park Service  
4 that.

5  
6 This whole document I think over the several years that  
7 it's been kicking around internally and being discussed has  
8 gotten a little softer and a little more friendly than when it  
9 started out. And I think Sandy is very right in the fact that  
10 this isn't a closed door process and that it's a continually  
11 evolving thing. And it's encouraging, for example, when I was  
12 telling Sandy when I was looking through it earlier, there was  
13 a definite move at one time to extend resident zones and  
14 roster-type things that you'll find for some of the Parks and  
15 Monuments to Preserves.

16  
17 There was also discussion of needs to create these  
18 Subsistence Resource Commissions for National Preserves. And  
19 because of a lot of internal debate and some of our input we  
20 find now in the document where they're talking about relying  
21 more on the Federal System, like the RAC here, and also the  
22 question comes up, are the Federal Board's C&T determinations  
23 adequate to make that judgment of where traditional use  
24 occurred.

25  
26 So I think the thing is evolving, it's changing and  
27 this is just one opportunity to get your input into the process  
28 and hopefully make a better document.

29  
30 MR. FRED KATCHATAG: Now, what do you mean when you  
31 said RAC here, R-A-C?

32  
33 MR. ADKISSON: The Regional Advisory Council, the  
34 Federal Subsistence Region here.

35  
36 MR. FRED KATCHATAG: Oh, Regional Advisory Council.  
37 Okay.

38  
39 MR. ADKISSON: You folks right here.

40  
41 MR. FRED KATCHATAG: Okay. I got no more questions.

42  
43 CHAIRMAN SHELDON KATCHATAG: Thank you, Mr. Katchatag.  
44 One comment that I had is that under the legislative history of  
45 ANILCA it makes mention of the fact that ANILCA is here to  
46 protect subsistence from the -- okay. However, the  
47 continuation of subsistence uses in Rural Alaska is stretching  
48 by the rapid population growth of Anchorage, Fairbanks and  
49 other urban centers, and so forth, and that this title is here

50 to basically protect subsistence from threats by the urban

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1 majority, that I like to call it.

2

3 One concern that I have is that I think that not only  
4 should subsistence uses and users be protected not only from  
5 Alaska urban centers, but that we should also be protected from  
6 the American urban centers also. In that some of these people  
7 have a lot of bucks to be able to influence not only Congress,  
8 but also the Federal agencies.

9

10 And I make mention of this just from looking at this.  
11 One of the people that seems to be commenting on every item are  
12 the Sierra Club, which I think has a membership in excess of I  
13 don't know how many million people. I think that I would  
14 interpret ANILCA as applying to them also, in that we should be  
15 protected from those urban majorities also because they are a  
16 pretty large constituency. And as I said earlier, they can  
17 when they get riled up, they can put forth quite a few bucks  
18 because most of them are pretty well off, those people that  
19 like to think that they're wandering in the wilderness when  
20 actually they're wandering in our back yards.

21

22 Another comment that I think is appropriate here, it  
23 didn't make it onto our agenda but one of the other Council  
24 Chairs called me with concerns about language inserted in the  
25 Appropriations Bill for the Interior Department, which asked  
26 for a study on leghold traps. And I have some questions about  
27 that because it deals with leghold traps -- a study on leghold  
28 traps being used on Federal public lands. And the language in  
29 it sounds like that they were going to be using that as  
30 ammunition to be more restrictive on the use of traps. So we  
31 have some grave concerns about that.

32

33 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Mr. Chairman?

34

35 CHAIRMAN SHELDON KATCHATAG: Helen.

36

37 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Can I make a comment about that?

38

39 CHAIRMAN SHELDON KATCHATAG: Sure.

40

41 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Helen Armstrong from the Fish and  
42 Wildlife Service. The reason it's not on the agenda is it  
43 doesn't deal with Federal public lands, but it deals with only  
44 refuge lands. But if you'd like to have an update on what --  
45 you know, on the issue just because it concerns subsistence  
46 users statewide, although it would not affect people in this  
47 region, we can certainly do that.

48

49 CHAIRMAN SHELDON KATCHATAG: Yes, I.....



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1 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Do you want to add that to the  
2 agenda at some point?

3  
4 CHAIRMAN SHELDON KATCHATAG: Yes. I would appreciate  
5 that because I have concerns about it. And if I'm unduly  
6 concerned, then I'd like to be reassured. So I'll seek and ask  
7 unanimous consent for an addition to our new business. Item  
8 8(B)(6) would be the study on leghold traps and any  
9 implications that it might have to not only subsistence  
10 trapping in our areas, but also what implications it has across  
11 the State. And I guess we'll get a briefing from that, Helen,  
12 when we come to that. Then hearing no objections, so ordered.  
13 Item 8(B)(6) will be the study on leghold traps. I'm sorry,  
14 but there was a concern and I lost it in the confusion of my  
15 house. So I apologize for that.

16  
17 One other concern that I have with regard to the  
18 relationship of the National Park Service, their Subsistence  
19 Resource Commission, I have yet to hear from the Park Service  
20 as to what role our Regional Advisory Council and the Federal  
21 Subsistence Board have with regard to I guess in our area would  
22 be the Bering Land Bridge, which is the only Park Service lands  
23 in this region, right? So does the Bering Land Bridge  
24 basically fit under the Federal Subsistence Management Program?

25  
26 MR. RABINOWITCH: Clearly Bering Land Bridge does, and  
27 clearly recommendations that you all have made in the past that  
28 in my opinion that have been acted on by the Board are proof of  
29 that, and the number of proposals that you've all had  
30 recommendations on in the past. The Board's voted in favor of  
31 many of them, I believe. And I think the record would show,  
32 though I could be wrong, but I think the record would show that  
33 the Park Service has voted in favor of probably not all, but  
34 most of those. So I think if we were to go back and study all  
35 the records that what I say would be born out.

36  
37 The more general comment that I would make, I think as  
38 the Federal Board has evolved, it's as you all know pretty  
39 young, and as the Councils like this have evolved and, you  
40 know, figured out roles and found ways to move issues along,  
41 the way I would characterize the way the Park Service looks to  
42 this Council is that it plays a very key role. As you say,  
43 there is no Subsistence Resource Commission because Bering Land  
44 Bridge is a Preserve. And I think that's in simple terms why we  
45 keep showing up at all your meeting, because we want to talk,  
46 we want to know what you think is important, so on and so  
47 forth. And I expect we'll keep coming just like we are.

48  
49 CHAIRMAN SHELDON KATCHATAG: I don't know how we

50 managed to fall through the cracks, but in our last discussion

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1 we were discussing the eligibility rosters and I didn't see any  
2 mention of our comments with regard to the fact that we felt  
3 that due to the history of our area, which is -- of the people  
4 in our area, the indigenous people, that it's not included that  
5 we are all one big extended family and down through the  
6 centuries one or another of our ancestors has customarily and  
7 traditional used not only the Bering Land Bridge, but probably  
8 99.9 percent of the area within our area here.

9  
10 And it's only common sense to me as an indigenous  
11 person that I would think that an eligibility roster would  
12 include the active and current tribal membership roles of all  
13 the IRAs within the region. And we had had mention of that  
14 earlier and, as I said, I don't know how it fell through the  
15 cracks. Sandy.

16  
17 MR. RABINOWITCH: It has fallen through the cracks.  
18 And I can explain the why and also assure you that it'll be  
19 picked up out of the crack, so to speak. And it's actually  
20 very simple.

21  
22 The person who's pulled these comments together so far  
23 has only worked from written letters received. That person has  
24 not yet been able to go back through all actually 20  
25 transcripts because there's been two rounds of 10 meetings a  
26 piece of all the Councils; has not yet gone back through the  
27 transcripts and pulled from the transcripts the very point that  
28 you make. And I apologize that I didn't mention that earlier.  
29 I should have mentioned that. But we've talked about that and  
30 that will be done.

31  
32 CHAIRMAN SHELDON KATCHATAG: Okay. Also on page 26 of  
33 your tabbed area, under the issue of Customary Trade, I'd like  
34 to find out where -- the very first sentence says: "The  
35 regulation for customary trade is generally clear; stating that  
36 only furs may be exchanged for cash." That is the narrowest  
37 interpretation of customary trade that I have ever seen and  
38 it's the only definition of customary trade that I have seen.  
39 And it flies in the face of the customs and traditions of our  
40 people as far as being able to practice customary trade.

41  
42 We trade what we need for what somebody has in surplus,  
43 whether it be money or food or anything else. And I strongly  
44 object to having it in black and white here in front of me that  
45 it says that only furs may be exchanged for cash. Because  
46 especially nowadays most of your cash economy people don't have  
47 a lot of time to be able to get out and harvest and process  
48 properly subsistence resources, but I'm sure that they'd be  
49 willing to trade some of their surplus cash for somebody else's



50 surplus customary and traditional resource. So I'm very

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1 perturbed that it's stated here. And it seems to infer that  
2 this is written down somewhere as a definition of customary  
3 trade that only furs fit within the definition of customary  
4 trade. And I strongly object to that. Sandy.

5  
6 MR. RABINOWITCH: Certainly so noted. It'll take me a  
7 moment here to find that exact language, but I believe I've got  
8 it right here so I can show you what it does say exactly.  
9 Okay. And if you bear with me I'll find that. And if you want  
10 to add more to your comments after you've seen the exact words,  
11 I encourage you to do so and, if not, the comments you just  
12 made will show up, you know, they'll get recorded and put in  
13 here.

14  
15 But the Park Service does have a definition of  
16 customary trade in regulation and I'll find it for you here in  
17 just a moment.

18  
19 CHAIRMAN SHELDON KATCHATAG: I'd appreciate it. Any  
20 other comments from any other Council members with regard to  
21 the issue paper before us?

22  
23 MS. CROSS: I have.

24  
25 CHAIRMAN SHELDON KATCHATAG: Ms. Cross.

26  
27 MS. CROSS: When you're talking about making  
28 regulations for National Parks that could effectively affect  
29 the Preserves, I would think that each of the Parks or  
30 Preserves should be looked separately as each new regulation  
31 comes about. Because what's necessarily true in Denali  
32 National Park would certainly not be applicable with, you know,  
33 the Bering Land Bridge Preserve.

34  
35 And there may be some regulations that could happen in  
36 another Park or Preserve that would adversely affect other  
37 Parks. And I think those things should be looked over very  
38 carefully, especially if they're going to have legal  
39 ramifications for each of the Preserves or Parks that would  
40 adversely affect another area's subsistence way of life. So I  
41 think that each regulation that comes about should be looked  
42 very, very closely as to how it applies to all of the Parks or  
43 Reserves. That's one comment that I have.

44  
45 And I also wanted to say that (indiscernible) concerned  
46 just like the rest of us do when Lower 48 people get involved  
47 in those things because they don't know our way of life. And I  
48 think that National Park Service should give less heed to those  
49 entities that are coming from Lower 48 and look at their

50 comments from where they come from and give more weight to

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1 what's coming in from the State of Alaska, especially those  
2 from subsistence users.

3  
4 CHAIRMAN SHELDON KATCHATAG: One other comment that I  
5 would make is that I think that we as a Federal Regional  
6 Advisory Council should at some time in the future sit down  
7 with the National Park Service, personnel effected, and  
8 basically go over this document. Then determine how it affects  
9 not only us as a Regional Advisory Council, but what our role  
10 in the Bering Land Bridge is. So that we clarify that and  
11 things that have fallen by the way or through the cracks are  
12 recovered from the ground before they're covered. So I think  
13 that that may be something that we can look at in the future.

14  
15 I think that this kind of a document is so important to  
16 your average subsistence user who doesn't have the luxury of  
17 that kind of time to be able to go over these documents. And I  
18 think that since we are appointed in that capacity, that we  
19 should take the time at some future date on their behalf to go  
20 over this and give it the proper consideration that it's due.  
21 So I would ask that we think about doing that some time in the  
22 future, either as part of our process or some other process  
23 that the National Park Service find more acceptable.

24  
25 MR. RABINOWITCH: I believe what you say is quite  
26 acceptable. And one of the things that we have done in the  
27 last year in some other parts of the State where there has been  
28 an interest just like what you've expressed, we've brought to  
29 the table one of the five or six people that actually created  
30 the document, that spent a couple of years going over every  
31 line and sentence and creating the document.

32  
33 And all we need is just a little bit of lead time to  
34 get, you know, one of those people sort of lined up and then  
35 make sure that we can get them here. In fact, somebody from  
36 the Park Service in Glennallen who was part of writing this  
37 today in fact is in Chignik doing just that sort of thing  
38 with the Subsistence Resource Commission in this case. But I  
39 think that model works where we bring to the table some of the  
40 authors who can answer, you know, any detailed question about  
41 well how come the Park Service said this, you know, and focus  
42 on one word. And I may not know the answer, Ken may not know  
43 the answer because we haven't spent two years working on it,  
44 but we're happy to bring those people to the table, to your  
45 table.

46  
47 So I think it's a matter of you deciding that you want  
48 to donate some time on your future agenda to it. We just need  
49 to know about it a little bit in advance. That's not very

50 complicated. And then I think we can make that happen, and as

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1 much time as you want to spend we're happy to do that.

2

3 CHAIRMAN SHELDON KATCHATAG: I really think that a good  
4 at least a half a day of discussion going over the entire  
5 document is well in order. And I think it would be time well  
6 spent, both as give and take on both sides.

7

8 And, if you look at 19, I'm just thumbing through this  
9 document, and as I see items that bother me I bring them up.  
10 And I haven't had the time to properly go over the entire  
11 document. But if you look on page 19 it says that, "ANILCA and  
12 NPS regulations do not specifically recognize ORV's as a form  
13 of access for subsistence." And it bothers me because the  
14 indigenous people and subsistence users just about anywhere are  
15 and have to be adaptable. And it doesn't make sense to  
16 restrict transportation for subsistence to try to keep us in  
17 the stone age as far as transportation modes.

18

19 If the most efficient form of transportation especially  
20 for some of the elder and other handicapped people is an off-  
21 road vehicle, then I think that it should be realized that it's  
22 not there to damage either the resource or the habitat, but  
23 just to provide transportation for the subsistence user. And  
24 that we are an adaptable people and as more efficient forms of  
25 transportation evolve I would hate to be precluded in the  
26 future from using one of them jettison Hovercrafts that use  
27 anti-gravity to be able to leave no tracks on the ground just  
28 because the regulations say it's not a recognized form of  
29 transportation. You know, if it doesn't leave any tracks I  
30 think that would be the most desirable form of transportation.  
31 And if in fact we do find people that can levitate themselves,  
32 I think they should be given that opportunity also.

33

34 So, having said that and having heard your response to  
35 the possibility of meeting and discussing this document and its  
36 implications for our organization at length some time in the  
37 future, if there are no objections I would.....

38

39 MS. CROSS: I had one final comment, Mr. Chair.

40

41 CHAIRMAN SHELDON KATCHATAG: Okay. One more comment  
42 from Grace and then from Peter.

43

44 MS. CROSS: It was in the light of what you were  
45 talking about. Because I'm new there's very little training  
46 that was given to us and sometimes when you're talking I get  
47 lost. And it would be very helpful, like he was talking about,  
48 if we would meet separately with Park Service people and spend  
49 some time going through this. Because sometimes it's very

50 difficult when there's general public to ask a question,

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1 especially when you know it's probably a very stupid question  
2 and people have been there longer knows about it, so you jot it  
3 down and ask somebody later. And sometimes you do that in the  
4 interest of time. So I appreciate what you were saying, that  
5 perhaps in the future we will have an opportunity to go through  
6 this more thoroughly with your staff. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

7

8 CHAIRMAN SHELDON KATCHATAG: Thank you, Grace. Mr.  
9 Buck.

10

11 MR. BUCK: Yes. I think this National Park Service  
12 regulation needs to be looked at more, especially with the  
13 winning of the Katie John case, and the regulation for fishing.  
14 And I think we do need to gather like Grace says.

15

16 But I'd like to take it a little bit further, that the  
17 Board in the future plan a retreat where we put aside all forms  
18 of businesses and just concentrate on what we're trying to  
19 accomplish as a Board and have this as a retreat to inform the  
20 Board and just to instill in all the Board the main reason that  
21 we're here and what avenues that we can use to accomplish our  
22 goals and stuff like that. Just a retreat without pressing  
23 issues of the day to -- I guess it would be -- I'm just calling  
24 for a retreat further down the road.

25

26 CHAIRMAN SHELDON KATCHATAG: Appreciate that. Edgar?

27

28 MR. NINGEULOOK: Yes. Since I don't see any comments  
29 for Nome area, I would like to know if there's a comment period  
30 for the Gates of the Arctic Preserve?

31

32 MR. RABINOWITCH: We've had over the past probably year  
33 and a half, we've had a couple of comment date dates and  
34 actually we've had two and both times we've extended them. And  
35 what we are basically saying right now is that in mid-April. So  
36 all the Councils like this one will have met for their winter  
37 meetings. And then actually well I was going to say that the  
38 Federal Board will have met, but that's really not pertinent.

39

40 The Park Service will sit down, as I said, with all  
41 these comments and try to figure out what the next step is. As  
42 I have said before, there is no rigid plan with this. There's  
43 no rigid time table, there's nothing that is specifically  
44 driving or forcing the Park Service to do this. We're going it  
45 because we think it's good business in the long run to review  
46 how we do business and to try to talk about it like this where  
47 we're not all -- you know, we have some big issue on our neck  
48 that we're struggling with. And I don't mean to say that there  
49 are not some issues in here that are struggled with, but



50 they're not as crushing as perhaps many.

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1           If I might, I would make the suggestion that one  
2 practical way to do what you're talking about, which is to  
3 focus on this at length and for us to bring to the table some  
4 of the people who wrote this, it seems to me that the fall  
5 meetings are generally a little less busy than the winter  
6 meetings. You know, you've got a lot of things on your agenda  
7 yet today. So I would throw the concept out to you that  
8 perhaps in your next fall meeting if you decide how much time  
9 you want to spend to this and set it with your agenda, and then  
10 we'll have plenty of time to make sure that we can bring people  
11 to the table.

12  
13           And, you know, the Park Service has a tight budget,  
14 Fish and Wildlife Service has a tight budget, the subsistence  
15 program has a tight budget and the State has a tight budget.  
16 Nobody's got a lot of extra money these days. That's maybe a  
17 practical way to do, is because you're going to get together  
18 already and there is a source of funding for it to, you know,  
19 bring everybody together. So practically speaking, from my  
20 standpoint, and I'll look over my shoulders and see if anyone  
21 scours at me, but practically speaking that seems sort of like  
22 an efficient way to find some time when you're all in the same  
23 spot. I just throw that out as an idea.

24  
25           CHAIRMAN SHELDON KATCHATAG: Appreciate that, Sandy.  
26 What is the wish of the Council; would you like to have a  
27 working session with the Park Service prior to or after our  
28 next fall meeting?

29  
30           MS. CROSS: I think prior to.

31  
32           CHAIRMAN SHELDON KATCHATAG: I'd entertain a motion to  
33 that effect.

34  
35           MS. CROSS: I move that a meeting be set with National  
36 Park Service to -- what are we calling it? To go over the  
37 proposed regulations or draft regulations.

38  
39           MR. RABINOWITCH: It's really more a paper. I'll  
40 stress this isn't a proposed set of regulation changes. It's  
41 more a review of what regulations exist and trying to discuss  
42 if they're appropriate or if there are any changes that need to  
43 be made.

44  
45           CHAIRMAN SHELDON KATCHATAG: We have a motion before us  
46 to have -- and do you want a half a day or a full day?

47  
48           MS. CROSS: Do you want a half a day or a full day?  
49

MR. NINGEULOOK: I'd say a full day.

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1 CHAIRMAN SHELDON KATCHATAG: We have a motion before us  
2 to have as part of our fall meeting, prior to our fall meeting,  
3 to have a meeting with the National Park Service more or less  
4 to discuss how we fit into the National Park system and now the  
5 National -- well, how the Bering Land Bridge fits under the  
6 Federal Subsistence Management Program and our role in the  
7 matter and to clarify any concerns that we might have with the  
8 draft Park Service Regulations on subsistence. Is there a  
9 second?

10  
11 MR. BUCK: Seconded.

12  
13 CHAIRMAN SHELDON KATCHATAG: Seconded. Discussion.

14  
15 MR. FRED KATCHATAG: Question.

16  
17 CHAIRMAN SHELDON KATCHATAG: Question's been called.  
18 All those in favor, signify by saying aye.

19  
20 IN UNISON: Aye.

21  
22 CHAIRMAN SHELDON KATCHATAG: All those opposed, nay.

23  
24 (No opposing responses)

25  
26 CHAIRMAN SHELDON KATCHATAG: Motion passes unanimously.  
27 Do you have any more? Any questions from any -- Jake?

28  
29 MR. OLANNA: Is it possible for myself and Kawerak to  
30 be invited to participate because we do have some concerns as  
31 far as the licensing. Maybe the current (indiscernible-away  
32 from microphone).

33  
34 CHAIRMAN SHELDON KATCHATAG: Sandy.

35  
36 MR. RABINOWITCH: My short answer is, yes, of course.  
37 My long answer is if this is structured to be one of the days  
38 of your fall meeting, it's opened to the public, it's  
39 advertised, everybody know and everybody's welcome and it's  
40 your meeting to run. We'll just have a few more people sitting  
41 at this table from the Park Service to go back and forth.

42  
43 CHAIRMAN SHELDON KATCHATAG: Well, I'm not sure they  
44 wanted it as part of the fall meeting. They wanted I think  
45 more or less an orientation or a discussion type of meeting.  
46 Is that your understanding?

47  
48 MS. CROSS: I was kind of looking at it more as a  
49 informational, to gain more knowledge for the entire Council.



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1 CHAIRMAN SHELDON KATCHATAG: For the Council.

2

3 MR. RABINOWITCH: We don't have a source of funds to  
4 bring people. I have no funds. I have no budget whatsoever.  
5 And that's my point of if it is part of the Council business at  
6 a regular Council time, then there is a mechanism and a source  
7 of funding to get everybody to the same -- wherever the meeting  
8 may be, to get everybody there.

9

10 And, Sheldon, as you recall, you know, we've been  
11 through that choice and what the Park Service said is no, we  
12 don't have a pot of money to do this. So I'm trying to look  
13 for a practical way of accomplishing what would be desirable and  
14 talk about it and try to use this mechanism in trying to find  
15 that skinny line to balance on. Your choice, I mean.....

16

17 CHAIRMAN SHELDON KATCHATAG: Is that acceptable to you?  
18 Well, it creates a crunch that we're trying to get away from.

19

20 MS. CROSS: I don't know if it would necessarily be a  
21 full day to begin with. I think we were talking about a half a  
22 day or less.

23

24 MS. MEEHAN: Excuse me, Mr. Chairman.

25

26 CHAIRMAN SHELDON KATCHATAG: Ms. Meehan.

27

28 MS. MEEHAN: I couldn't find a microphone. There's a  
29 few odd administration aspects of holding a meeting. There's  
30 no problem with doing a meeting ahead of the fall Council  
31 meeting and doing it as an informational exchange meeting, but  
32 with these meetings we're also running under FACA which governs  
33 how we do the public portion of the meetings. And so because  
34 we have to run under those rules for the Advisory Council when  
35 you do these public meetings, it might be easier to do the  
36 informational exchange with the Park Service not as a formal  
37 part of the Regional Advisory Council meeting, but time it so  
38 that it's the day before. And then we can look at the.....

39

40 CHAIRMAN SHELDON KATCHATAG: Right. That was my  
41 suggestion.

42

43 MS. MEEHAN: I just wanted to make it clear that that's  
44 what you had in mind.

45

46 CHAIRMAN SHELDON KATCHATAG: Right. That's basically  
47 what I had in mind because we.....

48

49 MS. CROSS: And so we're saying before the.....



0037

1 MS. MEEHAN: Yeah. That sounds fine. We can work  
2 that out.

3  
4 CHAIRMAN SHELDON KATCHATAG: Yeah, Staff can work that  
5 out, right.

6  
7 MR. RABINOWITCH: That's my goal, to try to make it  
8 work.

9  
10 CHAIRMAN SHELDON KATCHATAG: Right. So we'll see how  
11 that pans out for the fall meeting. We already have a motion  
12 and we're in discussion. And we called the question. So  
13 that's basically where we're at. Let's take about a 10 minute  
14 coffee break. We're in recess.

15  
16 (Off record)

17  
18 (On record)

19  
20 CHAIRMAN SHELDON KATCHATAG: Just a matter of  
21 housekeeping, will everyone in attendance please make sure you  
22 sign in on the sign-in sheet before you leave. We like as much  
23 public participation as possible. I'd like to welcome a class  
24 from the local school and I'll introduce the teacher and you  
25 can introduce the class. Henry, please state for the record  
26 who you are and what you're representing and what you're doing  
27 here. Maybe you can use this mike here.

28  
29 MR. OYOUMICK: Okay. This is the Alaska studies class  
30 at Unalakleet Schools. And we have mainly mostly seniors and  
31 two juniors in there. And since one of the topics in our  
32 curriculum covers studying issues that would be relevant to our  
33 community, I thought it would be a best interest for my  
34 students to come in and listen. And we will deal with the  
35 subsistence issue later. I asked them yesterday if they care  
36 somewhat with subsistence issues. Most of them said that it  
37 didn't really matter. I hope that this will at least change  
38 their views on subsistence.

39  
40 CHAIRMAN SHELDON KATCHATAG: Henry, for the record,  
41 could you state your name and what your job is?

42  
43 MR. OYOUMICK: Yes. My name is Henry Oyoumick, I'm a  
44 high school teacher with Unalakleet Schools. And do you want  
45 the names of my students here too?

46  
47 CHAIRMAN SHELDON KATCHATAG: Sure. That'd be fine.

48  
49 MR. OYOUMICK: Okay. Sam Touwarek, Josh Hickerson



50 Quinn Ivanoff, Jerilyn Turner, Frank Johnson, Veronica Ivanoff

0038

1 Hannah Katongan (ph), Sherry Foote, Kathy Guterman (ph), Neely  
2 Jarrell, and Anna Bowling. There was about five kids that  
3 didn't get their permission slips signed by their parents, so  
4 they weren't able to come in.

5  
6 CHAIRMAN SHELDON KATCHATAG: Well, they don't need  
7 permission slips to show up here I guarantee you. Welcome and  
8 I hope you kids -- I mean I shouldn't call you kids. I hope  
9 you young people get some understanding of the importance of  
10 subsistence. Basically this Council is appointed by the  
11 Secretary of Interior to give limits to Federal Subsistence  
12 Management Program on Federal public lands in Alaska. And in  
13 our region it's the yellow area on the Eastern Norton Sound and  
14 also on the Bering Land Bridge Preserve. If you have any  
15 questions you can ask at any time as this meeting is opened to  
16 the public and we're opened to comments at all times during the  
17 course of our meeting.

18  
19 We are now -- I guess I'd ask Sandy and Ken to come  
20 back up to the mike because we have a few other questions from  
21 not only the Council, but probably we have some comments from  
22 the public also on that. So, Ken and Sandy. They're giving us  
23 some information on the Park Service. And, as I mentioned  
24 earlier, the effect on us is -- on the Bering Land Bridge  
25 Preserve in Central Seward Peninsula. Chuck, you had a  
26 question?

27  
28 MR. DEGNAN: Yes, Mr. Chairman.

29  
30 CHAIRMAN SHELDON KATCHATAG: Could you come -- I guess  
31 you can use one of these mikes. State your name for the record  
32 and who you represent, if anyone?

33  
34 MR. DEGNAN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My name is  
35 Charles Degnan and I'm a resident of Unalakleet and today I'm  
36 representing myself. Earlier in the presentation the Park  
37 Service mentioned the turn-over of personnel in their offices  
38 and the administrative problems it may cause. And I'm just  
39 curious to find out from the Park Service if they do actively  
40 recruit from Native villages in Alaska and, if so, what's their  
41 success rate for position vacancies within the Park Service?

42  
43 MR. RABINOWITCH: I'll start to try to answer and Ken  
44 may be able to share the more local experience in the Park  
45 Service office in Nome.

46  
47 There is what is commonly called an Alaska hire  
48 provision that the Park Service can hire local people from.  
49 I'm not an expert on that. I don't off the top of my head have

50 any, you know, statistics that I can respond.

0039

1 My guess is to say that the Park Service record is  
2 probably not great, but that's just my own kind of impression  
3 of the agency that I work for record. And probably in some  
4 parts of the State we do a little better than others, but I'm  
5 -- I really can't say which I think we do, you know, real well  
6 in and which maybe we don't so well in.

7  
8 I think that subject has been quite a bit of interest  
9 really for a lot of years. And also at the level of the  
10 Department of Interior, which the Park Service is part of.

11  
12 CHAIRMAN SHELDON KATCHATAG: You have to speak up so  
13 that they hear you in the back also.

14  
15 MR. RABINOWITCH: So to reiterate, I don't know the  
16 facts and figures. And my own characterization is we probably  
17 don't do so well at it. I would like to be wrong about that  
18 but I'm probably not. And that's just a sort of simple plain  
19 answer as best I can. I don't know if Ken, if there's anything  
20 that you know and can add to that.

21  
22 MR. ADKISSON: Only from the perspective of a local  
23 park unit. The Bering Land Bridge headquartered in Nome is  
24 running about somewhere between I think 30 and 40 percent local  
25 hire of Alaskan Natives.

26  
27 CHAIRMAN SHELDON KATCHATAG: What was the percentage?

28  
29 MR. ADKISSON: I think somewhere between 30 and 40.  
30 I'd have to actually add up all the position, you know,  
31 totaling them but it's somewhere between there, I think.

32  
33 CHAIRMAN SHELDON KATCHATAG: I think one item that  
34 might be of interest to especially the students that just came  
35 in, I know that the Fish and Wildlife Service has some kind of  
36 summer employment program. I was wondering if Rosa might give  
37 us a little briefing on that so that these young people seeking  
38 to enter the job market after high school might have some  
39 opportunity there. Rosa.

40  
41 MS. MEEHAN: Hi, Rosa Meehan with the US Fish and  
42 Wildlife Service, also in the Office of Subsistence Management.  
43 The Fish and Wildlife Service does have a summer hire program.  
44 We try and run it through our local refuges. And we have a  
45 couple of programs where students can work -- have an  
46 opportunity to work on a project in a refuge and learn about  
47 field biology.

48  
49 The best way for students to learn about specific

50 opportunities within this program is to contact the local land

0040

1 managing unit, which in this case we don't have any refuges in  
2 this region. The closest would be possibly the Yukon/Kuskokwim  
3 Delta Refuge. There's also based out of Kotzebue we have the  
4 Selawik National Wildlife Refuge. But all of our refuges do  
5 try and work actively with the schools and provide students  
6 opportunities.

7  
8 And we also have the -- our RIT's, which are -- I can't  
9 remember what it stands for, but basically we have people out  
10 in the villages that are employed that live on the villages  
11 within our refuge lands that are employed by the Fish and  
12 Wildlife Service and provide technical information to the  
13 Service in administering those lands.

14  
15 So there's a couple of ways that we really try as an  
16 agency to reach out to local folks and involve people within  
17 the local decisions.

18  
19 CHAIRMAN SHELDON KATCHATAG: Thank you, Rosa.

20  
21 MS. DEWHURST: I could probably give a little more  
22 detail on that.

23  
24 CHAIRMAN SHELDON KATCHATAG: Donna.

25  
26 MS. DEWHURST: I was involved quite a bit with.....

27  
28 CHAIRMAN SHELDON KATCHATAG: Please state your name for  
29 the record.

30  
31 MS. DEWHURST: Oh, I'm sorry, Donna Dewhurst. And a  
32 large part of my job in King Salmon was working with the summer  
33 hire program.

34  
35 For high school age students there is the Youth  
36 Conservation Corp Program, it's called YCC. It's actually a  
37 continuation of the old CCC Corps from just after World War I,  
38 FDR program. Most of the YCC program involves, unfortunately,  
39 it's used a lot by refuges to do either clerical work or  
40 maintenance type work; painting, lawn work, things like that.  
41 It doesn't go as much into the resources. And it pays minimum  
42 wage.

43  
44 Every refuge hires usually in the spring and it's  
45 usually local hire because there's usually no facilities for  
46 housing for high school students. But if you had relatives  
47 that lived within the vicinity of a refuge, like let's say  
48 Kotzebue and Selawik Refuge, or something like that, you could  
49 apply for that refuge.



0041

1           There's also a Resource Apprentice Program called RAPS,  
2 that's for high school aged folks. That one is more dealing  
3 directly with the management of the refuge. And each refuge  
4 only usually takes one student a year. And you actually work  
5 in different programs of the refuge. You work with management,  
6 you work with the biology program, you work with the public  
7 outreach. And it's sort of a trainee program. And the idea  
8 behind that was what you were talking about in that we get high  
9 school aged folks, introduce them to the system, hopefully they  
10 get interested enough that they go to college and get the  
11 needed education, could work through school in the summers, and  
12 then potentially get hired on as permanent folks after college.  
13 But the idea was to get young people interested at the high  
14 school level and get them interested early. So that was the  
15 Resource Apprentice Program.

16  
17           CHAIRMAN SHELDON KATCHATAG: Are there any scholarship  
18 programs in conjunction with that?

19  
20           MS. MEEHAN: Yeah. The RAP Program ties into what they  
21 call the Co-op Educational program through -- UAF runs a Co-op  
22 Program. So somebody could be a RAP student and then get on  
23 with the Co-op Program at UAF or UAA and continue and work  
24 during the summers with any a -- really, it doesn't have to be  
25 Fish and Wildlife Service. The Co-op Program and RAPS Program  
26 I think also the Park Service has. And it's a really nice --  
27 the idea is sound.

28  
29           We've had problems with it in that the RAPS Program  
30 only pays minimum wage and you get to areas like where I was  
31 from, King Salmon/Naknek, and kids can commercial fish and make  
32 a heck of a lot more than minimum wage. So it's hard to  
33 recruit local kids to be interested in it because they can make  
34 a lot more money doing other things.

35  
36           But ideally that's the way the program is supposed to  
37 go, is RAPS and the Co-op Ed Program and then eventually roll  
38 them into permanent positions either in management or in  
39 biology or whatever, and it's a nice idea.

40  
41           And then also we have another program where there's  
42 summer hire folks. Now this is mostly folks that already have  
43 college education, or at least two years. And they're hired as  
44 what we call biological technicians. And there's also some  
45 public use technicians or park rangers that will go out in the  
46 field camps and help out in field camps. And usually they're  
47 getting paid quite better. They're usually a GS-5 level and so  
48 they're usually getting about 10 bucks to \$11.00 an hour.  
49 They're hired -- usually start mid to the end of May and work



50 through the summer. And a typical refuge hires anything from

0042

1 four to a dozen of them. And just about all the refuges run  
2 those programs.

3  
4 So those are the different programs available. So it's  
5 YCC and RAPS for high school age folks, and then once you get  
6 into college there is the Co-op Ed Program and just seasonal  
7 hire, which is done through a massive register that's initiated  
8 in January. So that could give a quick summary for you folks.

9  
10 With not having a refuge office in this immediate area,  
11 it's a little bit trickier, but they could contact Bering Land  
12 Bridge. And, do you guys have a RAPS Program, or.....

13  
14 MR. ADKISSON: Yes, we do.

15  
16 MS. DEWHURST: So Bering Land Bridge has a RAPS  
17 program and also Parks do the same sort of thing too.

18  
19 CHAIRMAN SHELDON KATCHATAG: Thank you, Donna. I was  
20 wondering if BLM has any kind of a program like that because I  
21 know they have extensive holdings over here on the Eastern  
22 North Sound. Jeff.

23  
24 MR. DENTON: Jeff Denton, Anchorage BLM. And I guess  
25 basically all federal land managers in Alaska have similar  
26 programs. We have a RAPS program that's actually fairly  
27 extensive because we have several students a year go through  
28 that with cadastral surveys to learn surveying techniques.  
29 Some of those people that have gone through it are now  
30 permanent employees with BLM. And they also have opportunities  
31 within the Resource Programs also to work within that.

32  
33 We have student Co-op Ed Programs, although funding for  
34 those hasn't been good in recent years for folks going through  
35 college. For people who do have college degrees and have  
36 specific skills, there's a new program that we've been using in  
37 recent years. It's called the Environmental Careers  
38 Organization and it's run out of Portland, Oregon. And it's a  
39 program set up mostly for minority people with advance degrees  
40 that have specific skills if we need them. They apply through  
41 those folks. Pretty much their salaries are negotiated and  
42 they're fairly good salaries. And we've used those folks  
43 pretty consistently for either master's programs or for very  
44 specialized projects over the last few years.

45  
46 CHAIRMAN SHELDON KATCHATAG: Do you have any entry  
47 level type programs that these young people might be able to  
48 apply for, like any of your land holdings in this area?

49

MR. DENTON: Probably not in this area. And the BLM's

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1 biggest problem in this area is primarily we don't have the  
2 infrastructure, we don't have office buildings and staffing in  
3 place spread out through Alaska. We're all sitting there in  
4 Anchorage. However, there are some opportunities I think to be  
5 explored. Harvest reporting systems for subsistence would be  
6 probably an outstanding opportunity for many students out here,  
7 or it could be school projects, any number of things like that.  
8 So there are opportunities, it's just we have to use our  
9 imagination to be able to create it.

10  
11 CHAIRMAN SHELDON KATCHATAG: Thank you, Mr. Denton. Do  
12 any of you students have any questions for any of these people?  
13 Cliff. He's not a student by the way.

14  
15 MR. EDENSHAW: No. Thank you, Mr. Chair. My name is  
16 Cliff Edenshaw with Fish and Wildlife. I just wanted to add  
17 with what Donna has already shared, as well as with Jeff.  
18 Prior to coming to Fish and Wildlife I was a Co-op student when  
19 I was in college. And so that I do know that once any of these  
20 students have any interest in natural resources, whether it be  
21 fisheries, forestry, wildlife management, I do know that once  
22 you're in a four year accredited college that they do pay  
23 tuition and books. So the main thing is tuition.

24  
25 And I do know that once an individual is accepted into  
26 the Co-op Program that whether it be with Fish and Wildlife,  
27 BLM, Forest Service, during the summers you go out and work  
28 with that agency out in whether it be a forest or a refuge or a  
29 park service. And also I am aware that in regards to Mr.  
30 Denton's comment about local hires, I know there is ANILCA  
31 hires for -- you know, if I was out of high school and I was  
32 wanting to get into a four -- like I'm from Southeast Alaska.  
33 On Admiralty Island I knew that when I'd go out there to Angoon  
34 that they had a local hire out there because the Admiralty  
35 National Monument, which encompasses almost all of Admiralty  
36 Island, they had individuals from Angoon who were hired  
37 locally. So I do know that they have a -- and it's covered  
38 under ANILCA. They have ANILCA hires. So I believe that the  
39 same policy would cover into Park Service, as well as Fish and  
40 Wildlife.

41  
42 So I think that if there are individuals in this  
43 community or in Nome who wanted to work on the refuge, or Park  
44 Service or BLM, that they have ANILCA hires. So it's just a  
45 matter of contacting these people, if they're interested in  
46 working for them; that there is a provision for them to hire.

47  
48 CHAIRMAN SHELDON KATCHATAG: Thank you, Cliff. For the  
49 record, one other person that has not been introduced yet and

50 who is, as you can see, busy here, I'd like to have her

0044

1 introduce herself. She's a Nome Nugget Reporter.

2

3 MS. SEAMON: I am Leslie Seamon. I hope I'm not  
4 disturbing you.

5

6 CHAIRMAN SHELDON KATCHATAG: We appreciate the  
7 coverage. We try to work with all the media people to make  
8 sure that our Council, not only our actions but our concerns  
9 are reflected in the public media. So we appreciate Nome  
10 Nugget sending a Reporter down here not just for this but for  
11 other activities here in Unalakleet.

12

13 MR. DENTON: Mr. Chairman, may I do a follow-up?

14

15 CHAIRMAN SHELDON KATCHATAG: Mr. Degnan, sure.

16

17 MR. DEGNAN: Thank you. After recruitment there is a  
18 difficult period of adjustment to a new job. Does your  
19 department contemplate having a mentoring program for Alaska  
20 Natives to make sure that they're successful in their new  
21 placement?

22

23 MR. RABINOWITCH: I'm simply not aware whether the  
24 answer is yes or no. I just plain don't know the answer to  
25 that.

26

27 MR. DEGNAN: Thank you.

28

29 CHAIRMAN SHELDON KATCHATAG: Does any of the other  
30 agencies have -- Ms. Dewhurst.

31

32 MS. DEWHURST: Yeah, Fish and Wildlife Service does. I  
33 know of a specific individual getting the training now.

34

35 CHAIRMAN SHELDON KATCHATAG: Does that answer your  
36 question?

37

38 MR. DEGNAN: Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.

39

40 CHAIRMAN SHELDON KATCHATAG: Any other questions?

41

42 MR. DEGNAN: No. Thank you.

43

44 CHAIRMAN SHELDON KATCHATAG: Thank you, Mr. Degnan.  
45 Any comments or questions from anybody else in the -- either in  
46 the audience or the staff for the Park Service? Hearing none,  
47 thank you Sandy and thank you Ken for -- oh, excuse me, I'm  
48 sorry. Mr. Garnie.

49

MR. GARNIE: I was just curious if the National Parks

0045

1 is -- had any idea of taking up a Native -- Alaska Native  
2 Policy Tribal Status?

3

4 MR. RABINOWITCH: My understand -- the question's been  
5 raised at other forums of chairmen's meeting that Sheldon's  
6 been at. And my understanding of the answer is that the Park  
7 Service's view is that at the present time that -- I'm trying  
8 to think of how to phrase this.

9

10 Let me back up a step. I do have with me copies of  
11 existing Park Service policies that deal with what I will refer  
12 to as various Native issues. And I've got a whole bunch of  
13 copies. I can stick them out on the table or whatever.  
14 Because I anticipated that this question might come up.

15

16 More specifically now, does the Park Service have a  
17 policy on that? We at most have a sentence or two, or a  
18 paragraph or two. We have quite a number of policies that deal  
19 with Native issues, as you can see when I pass this out. My  
20 guess is that you will find them sort of short, skinny, you  
21 know, maybe not very fully developed, I'm just guessing, when  
22 you look at them. Actually, I think, Sheldon, you've gotten  
23 copies of these in the past. So this is the same material,  
24 I've just made more Xeroxes.

25

26 Then will the Park Service, you know, do something more  
27 than it's got? My understanding right now on the national  
28 scene, and it really is a national question, is that there does  
29 not seem to be the interest or the will or the initiative to do  
30 that. And that's my sense of what Paul Anderson, the Federal  
31 Board member for the Park Service has told me.

32

33 CHAIRMAN SHELDON KATCHATAG: You know, in relation to  
34 that, whenever the Federal representatives talk to Native  
35 people they always mention the government relationship that our  
36 tribal government supposedly enjoy with the Federal government  
37 and yet when we get into relationships with specific Federal  
38 agencies the answer is always, no, we do not have a policy or  
39 no, we do not fit under that policy or no, we do not have a  
40 government relationship with any of the Federally recognized  
41 tribes.

42

43 What good is it to be a Federally recognized tribe if  
44 in fact this government to government relationship does -- you  
45 know, it falls by the way? That's my main concern with not  
46 only being a member of a Federally recognized tribe, but also  
47 what advantage is it to be a member of a Federally recognized  
48 tribe when they pay lip service to having a government  
49 relationship but in practice agencies have more of a Federal



50 agency American citizen attitude toward tribal members.

0046

1 MR. RABINOWITCH: I won't claim to have any great  
2 response to that. I think I understand your concern. And  
3 about the only thing that I could add, and I don't offer this  
4 as an excuse -- okay. I do not offer it as an excuse, but my  
5 sense of some of the difficulty with the Park Service anyway is  
6 trying to elevate this at the national level in our offices and  
7 get the attention. My perspective is that it seems to be a  
8 very hard thing to do, is capture attention in the Park Service  
9 in our halls in Washington.

10  
11 I would add it is not something that I directly deal  
12 with and so I only know what other people basically share with  
13 me. So I'm not the best person to answer your question. I  
14 realize we're the only ones sitting here. And I mean it's  
15 certainly good to ask, but I think you -- to make progress,  
16 which is I assume your goal, that you've basically got to bang  
17 on a door higher up than me. I mean I do make my Board member  
18 aware of this, you know, Paul Anderson will again know this  
19 question was raised, I assure you that.

20  
21 MR. GARNIE: You just mentioned there was a lack of  
22 interest on this. Whose lack of interest? Is it us not  
23 providing the Native policy, or.....

24  
25 MR. RABINOWITCH: I -- what -- I'm sorry, I didn't mean  
26 to interrupt.

27  
28 MR. GARNIE: Yeah. I just was curious here to the lack  
29 of interest.

30  
31 MR. RABINOWITCH: Well, when....

32  
33 MR. GARNIE: This is something we want to work towards  
34 and we want to have a Native policy. It'd just make it a lot  
35 easier. I just don't see any reason why somebody like Fred  
36 Katchatag should have to apply for a special permit to hunt on  
37 some of these National Parks and stuff. He's been doing it all  
38 of his life. I don't see why he should have to apply for a  
39 special permit.

40  
41 MR. RABINOWITCH: Right. I understand what you say.  
42 When I refer to a lack of interest it is certainly not a lack  
43 of interest here in Alaska. What I'm saying is that the Park  
44 Service as a national -- part of the National government, which  
45 we are, when the people in the Park Service in Alaska who are  
46 in charge, our Director, Deputy Director here in Alaska go to  
47 Washington, which they certainly do on a regular basis, that  
48 they compete with their counterparts from all the other 48  
49 states. And I'm saying it's at that level that it seems pretty

50 hard to capture attention of the leadership of the Park Service

0047

1 in Washington.

2

3 They've certainly, you know, heard it, but my sense is  
4 that's where it's hard to capture interest.

5

6 CHAIRMAN SHELDON KATCHATAG: For the record, what  
7 percent of National Park Service lands are up here in Alaska?

8

9 MR. RABINOWITCH: I'm trying to think of the number.  
10 It's -- I don't know if the exact percentage will come into my  
11 head, but nationally, on an acreage basis -- well, let me start  
12 with the numbers.

13

14 There are 15 National Park areas in Alaska. And  
15 there's about 360 or so National Parks around the country. So  
16 we have a small number of parks relative to the whole, but the  
17 acreage is the opposite. The acreage, and I'm not remembering  
18 the number, but I'm going to say it's probably greater than 60  
19 percent. Do I sound in the ballpark, Ken, on that?

20

21 MR. ADKISSON: I was going to say at least almost  
22 doubled. So somewhere in the neighborhood of 40 to 60 percent.

23

24 MR. RABINOWITCH: Okay. I'm fairly certain it's more  
25 than 50, so I'll say 60. That if you add up all the acres in  
26 the National Parks, sort of 60 percent of them are in the 15  
27 parks here in Alaska.

28

29 CHAIRMAN SHELDON KATCHATAG: And, I don't know, you  
30 worked for the BIA for a while, Cliff?

31

32 MR. EDENSHAW: Yes.

33

34 CHAIRMAN SHELDON KATCHATAG: Do you happen to remember  
35 right offhand what percentage of the Federally recognized  
36 tribes are up here in Alaska? I think it's in excess of 50  
37 also.

38

39 MR. EDENSHAW: Correct.

40

41 CHAIRMAN SHELDON KATCHATAG: See, that's the main  
42 thrust of my insistence as a Chair and also seeking the  
43 concurrence of the Council, is that we have a crying need here  
44 with no attention being given to it, both at the Agency level  
45 and/or the Department level. And it bothers me that the  
46 majority of our subsistence activities as indigenous people as  
47 members of tribes, you know, we're getting lip service as  
48 tribal people when it comes to the government to government  
49 relationship.



0048

1           And the Fish and Wildlife Service has a Native American  
2 policy. And for the most part this applies to the Continental  
3 United States. Because there is only one mention of Alaska  
4 Natives in this policy. And it just says, for example, Alaska  
5 Natives are dealt with under the terms of the Alaska Native  
6 Claim Settlement Act and the Alaska National Interests Lands  
7 Conservation Act. So we are an afterthought under the Fish and  
8 Wildlife Service's Native American policy. The Regional  
9 Director's attitude is an Alaska Native policy is not needed  
10 regardless of the fact that the majority of the Park Service  
11 lands are here in Alaska, acreage-wise as Sandy said, and the  
12 majority of the tribes, Federally recognized tribes, are also  
13 up here in Alaska.

14  
15           So this points to me to a crying need of clarification  
16 of an Alaska Native policy. And I'll be getting into that in  
17 my discussion on the Joint Federal Subsistence Board Regional  
18 Council Chairs Meeting that was held in November and the upshot  
19 of that. And that's -- I guarantee you it won't take more than  
20 a few minutes. It's going to take a little bit longer than  
21 that, but that's the basis of all this discussion on an Alaska  
22 Native policy.

23  
24           I think that we as a Federal agency are bound under the  
25 Federal canons of construction to insist that a coherent Alaska  
26 Native Policy be developed, and if one is not going to be  
27 developed by the Agencies, then I think we as the Regional  
28 Advisory Council are bound in our relationships to the people  
29 that we represent to make sure that if they won't develop one  
30 for the Agencies statewide, that we should at least develop one  
31 for our Council in our relations with the Federally recognized  
32 tribes in this region, which I believe there are some 22. Is  
33 that not correct, Jake? Yeah, there's 22 in this region. So  
34 we have darn near 10 percent of all Federally recognized tribes  
35 in Alaska here in this region.

36  
37           And, as I said, there is no "Alaska Native Policy." So  
38 that's the direction that I would like to see our Council go.  
39 And I was pleased that at our last meeting that the Council  
40 voted unanimously that they felt that this was also a need  
41 also. So if there are any other questions for -- Mr.  
42 Katchatag.

43  
44           MR. FRED KATCHATAG: Mr. Chairman, I could see why  
45 where we are now. Without the consent of our ancestors years  
46 back, 1867 or whatever, without the knowledge of our ancestors  
47 the Russian government sold us out to the United States. And  
48 our ancestors didn't know what went on because they did not  
49 understand each other.



1 And without the knowledge of the Native leaders of  
2 early '70s, without the knowledge of their people, they sold us  
3 out under the Land Claims Settlement Act. I have visited all  
4 my Native leaders from Unalakleet all the way to Barrow and  
5 asked them, did you know what went on when they presented  
6 Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act to the United States  
7 government? No. Only ones that knew what went on was the ones  
8 that were Native leaders in your early '70s. And now we're  
9 sitting here, we are Native leaders, and I could see why these  
10 two people right here cannot answer some of these questions,  
11 because they don't know how this went about. But they're told  
12 by their -- up there, their bosses, and their boss wouldn't  
13 tell them nothing. Here we are sitting.

14  
15 There are only few of us that know what went on. You  
16 know, my birth certificate in Juneau says Andrew Fred  
17 Katchatag. And all these years I thought my name is Fred  
18 Andrew Katchatag. No wonder -- one of the officials said to  
19 me, no wonder you got no record in a jail; you got two names.  
20 I said I've only got one name. And they said how is it then  
21 your birth certificate in Juneau said Andrew Fred Katchatag? I  
22 says, you see I'm older than you, I know what went on. My dad  
23 didn't really understood the White preacher and he probably  
24 didn't really hear what he said. So that missionary wrote it  
25 down as Andrew Fred Katchatag and my -- that preacher talked to  
26 the wrong person. He should have talked to my mom, the one  
27 that's born and raised in children's homes and learn to speak  
28 English.

29  
30 See, that's the problem we're facing right here today.  
31 My nephew over here did not know that Russian sold Natives of  
32 Alaska without the knowledge of them. They couldn't understand  
33 each other. You know when I went to school I used to chew soap  
34 when I talked back to my teachers in Eskimo because I couldn't  
35 speak English. I used to hurt inside. Here I got in a fight  
36 because I didn't start. I fight because I have to protect my  
37 own-self. A lot of these people didn't notice that I chew soap  
38 day after day because I wouldn't turn sick and I'd go ahead and  
39 fight for my own safety.

40  
41 Only thing I can tell you students now because I'm  
42 older than you, I went through a lot of stuff, don't waste no  
43 time in school. Use that privilege that you have to study  
44 without fooling around, study. Be just like commercial  
45 fishermen out there. I've been commercial fishing for last  
46 over 30 years. When I lose the opening season, I lose it  
47 forever. There's no way in the world that I can go back and  
48 redo that day again. When that one day pass you'll never do it  
49 over again. Everyday you're taking a step towards your grave.



50 So take your time in school and really use it. It's going to

0050

1 better you in years to come. You've got to be able to compete  
2 with these people here; these college people that's sitting in  
3 here. Fooling around in school will not make you compete with  
4 them. It's for your interest, you listen to your teachers.  
5 He's there to teach you. That's his responsibility.

6  
7 Some day you folks back there will sit in a meeting  
8 like this. And don't forget what I told you, that's your  
9 history. You'll be able to control yourself when you know  
10 that, because they did not know this happened. So do your part  
11 in school. Don't give your teacher bad time. Don't get in the  
12 wrong side of a row. Always look forward for another day.  
13 Tomorrow is better day. Today tomorrow is no better day.  
14 Tomorrow is always the worst day now. I'm glad I'm 76 years  
15 old and you're only young folks. You're going to learn lots if  
16 you live that long as I did.

17  
18 When I was a boy I used to see funeral maybe three  
19 times one funeral, that's all. Today I've seen three funerals  
20 in one week. You see the changes. Let's not fool around  
21 anymore, let's go to school and really learn. Thank you.

22  
23 CHAIRMAN SHELDON KATCHATAG: Thank you, Mr. Katchatag.  
24 You know, I appreciate that because I think a lot of the  
25 problems that we as Alaska Natives face is due to the way that  
26 the education system operates. Alaska Natives and other  
27 students in Alaska are not taught their rights as indigenous  
28 people. They teach you your rights as American citizens, they  
29 teach you your rights as Alaska citizens, and they teach you  
30 your rights as residents of a city, but they do not teach you  
31 what your rights that you are born with are. And until you  
32 learn who you are and where you've come from, you will not be  
33 able to figure out where you are going.

34  
35 And I think a really good thing that Henry can do with  
36 your class, this class here and his class here, is to teach you  
37 your personal history. I don't know how many of you know that  
38 your ancestors have been in this area since between 6,000 and  
39 8,000 years before Christ. Before Christ was even born. So  
40 you have roots in this area that are 10,000 years old. And  
41 until you realize what kind of rights that you are born with as  
42 indigenous people, then you're going to face the same kind of  
43 problems that we have faced so far.

44  
45 So I would ask that as you continue your studies, that  
46 you learn not only who your immediate ancestors are, but  
47 research the archaeological data on this area and you will find  
48 that one of the oldest communities in Western Alaska is over  
49 here on Cape Darby and that one's between 8,000 and 10,000

50 years old, depending on who you're talking to. So your roots

0051

1 in this area, even though technically speaking Unalakleet is  
2 very, very recent out of settlement, your history as a people  
3 shows that it was not our custom and traditions to build  
4 buildings all over the place to say yeah, I've been here, done  
5 that. That wasn't our way. But I'll leave you with that and  
6 we'll go ahead and take lunch until 1:30. We'll stand in  
7 recess.

8

9 (Off record)

10

11 (On record)

12

13 CHAIRMAN SHELDON KATCHATAG: I'd like to go ahead and  
14 call the afternoon session of the SPSRAC meeting back to order.  
15 It's now 1:43, we're about 13 minutes overdue.

16

17 And when we left we were wrapping up our National Park  
18 Service Agency Report on -- well, it's not really an agency  
19 report, it's more or less the Draft Review and Subsistence Law  
20 and Regulations. Were you finished? I noticed while we were  
21 gone you gave us a little something. Is there any explanation  
22 of this little something?

23

24 MR. RABINOWITCH: If you'd like?

25

26 CHAIRMAN SHELDON KATCHATAG: Okay. We'd like.

27

28 MR. RABINOWITCH: As a matter of explanation, what I've  
29 passed out to you is a follow-up to Joe's question earlier of  
30 that Native policies in the National Park Service.

31

32 I guess the simple way to say it is I anticipated the  
33 question might come up, so I came prepared. And what I've  
34 Xeroxed and passed out for you are pieces of this book that I'm  
35 holding, which is a 1988 -- I've copied the cover so you can  
36 see that and a complete table of contents, and then some  
37 selected portions of it.

38

39 As you can see by what I'm holding in my hand it's  
40 quite a thick thing here full of all manner of policies. This  
41 is about nine years old, this is a nationwide document for the  
42 Park Service. And what I tried to do the other night was to  
43 just with my own judgment here was identify those portions that  
44 I think related to the question that Joe asked. And I then  
45 Xeroxed those out and that's what you've got. If there are  
46 some portions from the table of contents that you're interested  
47 in and I didn't copy, I obviously can do that. I just took my  
48 best shot from my kitchen table the other night. And we can  
49 make you copies of this whole book if you wanted it, but I

50 didn't think you wanted, you know, to lug this whole thing

0052

1 around.

2

3 So merely just as information here is what is on the  
4 books with the Park Service. That's my simple goal.

5

6 CHAIRMAN SHELDON KATCHATAG: No mention whatsoever of  
7 government to government relationships.

8

9 MR. RABINOWITCH: Not that I could find in there.

10

11 CHAIRMAN SHELDON KATCHATAG: So are they or are they  
12 not a Federal agency?

13

14 MR. RABINOWITCH: I'm not sure I know the answer to  
15 that question.

16

17 CHAIRMAN SHELDON KATCHATAG: Well, something --  
18 somewhere along the way something's fallen down between the  
19 Secretary of the Interior and the National Park Service.

20

21 MR. RABINOWITCH: It might be a matter of catching up.  
22 As I said before, a lot of this goes on kind of far above my  
23 head. But, as you're of course well aware, a lot of the  
24 changes that have occurred in the last few years at the  
25 Secretarial level and with Ada Deer of BIA and so on and so  
26 forth have occurred after this document was published. And,  
27 you know, I'm sure you can recognize that.

28

29 CHAIRMAN SHELDON KATCHATAG: Okay. We can. Just a  
30 matter of curiosity, what's the cover? You know it looks like  
31 there's a bunch of hieroglyphs on there, but I was wondering if  
32 they were Alaskan or New Mexican or what?

33

34 MR. RABINOWITCH: I don't claim to know. My guess just  
35 by looking at it as you are would be probably Southwest states  
36 of the Lower 48, but an expert on this I am not.

37

38 CHAIRMAN SHELDON KATCHATAG: Is that a picture of one,  
39 or.....

40

41 MR. RABINOWITCH: I don't know.

42

43 CHAIRMAN SHELDON KATCHATAG: Okay. Well, I just  
44 thought I'd ask. Any questions regarding -- oh, by the way,  
45 for the record I'd respectfully ask that you and everybody else  
46 speaking before the Council please refrain from using the word  
47 passing out. I prefer handing out.

48

49 MR. RABINOWITCH: Hand out. I hope I handed out.



0053

1 CHAIRMAN SHELDON KATCHATAG: As a reformed drinker  
2 passing out has bad connotations.

3  
4 MR. RABINOWITCH: I'll have to check the transcript to  
5 see if I passed out or handed out.

6  
7 CHAIRMAN SHELDON KATCHATAG: You passed out.

8  
9 MR. RABINOWITCH: Oh, oh. Okay. Duly noted.

10  
11 CHAIRMAN SHELDON KATCHATAG: Any other questions or  
12 comments for Mr. Rabinowitch? Hearing none, thank you. Oh,  
13 excuse me, Elmer Seetot.

14  
15 MR. SEETOT: On the booklet there, on the only furs may  
16 be exchanged for cash, did you find reference to that?

17  
18 MR. RABINOWITCH: On customary trade?

19  
20 CHAIRMAN SHELDON KATCHATAG: Yes, on customary trade.

21  
22 MR. RABINOWITCH: Yes, we did. And actually Ken's.....

23  
24 MR. SEETOT: Okay. Yeah. I was just wondering if you  
25 did find it. Thank you.

26  
27 CHAIRMAN SHELDON KATCHATAG: For the record, I guess  
28 for the Park Service only, customary trade strictly refers to  
29 fur and for cash. Right?

30  
31 MR. RABINOWITCH: I believe that's what it says. I'd  
32 have to.....

33  
34 CHAIRMAN SHELDON KATCHATAG: We do need to see it.....

35  
36 MR. GARNIE: Can it be changed?

37  
38 MR. RABINOWITCH: Yes. I say yes because I believe  
39 that any regulation can be changed. That's my own belief.

40  
41 CHAIRMAN SHELDON KATCHATAG: The reason that I objected  
42 to that is because I hate to see such a narrow definition. I  
43 know eventually somebody is going to refer to it and say, oh,  
44 back in 19 aught and such and such and so on and so forth the  
45 National Park Service defined customary trade as fur only for  
46 cash, you know. I don't want to end up living with such a  
47 narrow interpretation of customary trade. So I just wanted to  
48 have my objection noted. And I appreciate the citation and the  
49 appropriate regulations. So we come under.....





0054

1 MR. GARNIE: Native Americans.

2

3 CHAIRMAN SHELDON KATCHATAG: Native American use of the  
4 Parks. Any other comments or questions for Sandy or Ken?  
5 Hearing none, thank you, Mr. Rabinowitch.

6

7 MR. RABINOWITCH: Thank you.

8

9 CHAIRMAN SHELDON KATCHATAG: And for the record, Mr.  
10 Katchatag, Sr., is excused for the afternoon for an IRA Council  
11 meeting. If his meeting gets over before 5:00 he will be back.  
12 And he will be back tomorrow.

13

14 Now comes the meat. We have now taken care of the new  
15 Item 7(A)(1). We now move on to 7(A)(2), Implementation of  
16 Federal Subsistence Fisheries Management Update. And, Ms.  
17 Meehan.

18

19 MS. MEEHAN: Thank you. Rosa Meehan, Office of  
20 Subsistence Management. What I have today is a presentation  
21 that I want to go ahead and walk through with you that explains  
22 where we are in the implementation of fisheries management.

23

24 We had a chance to come out and talk with you all a  
25 couple of times now. We were out last May when there was the  
26 Advance Notice of Proposed Rule Making. There was a public  
27 meeting in Nome that was fairly well attended. And then we  
28 talked about fisheries again at the fall Council meeting.

29

30 And so since that time we've made progress. And what  
31 I'm going to do today is just catch you all up on where we've  
32 gotten with this and explain where we plan to be going.

33

34 So the Federal program is considering expansion into  
35 fisheries areas based on the results of the Katie John case.  
36 And the court in that case ruled that navigable waters in which  
37 the Federal government has a reserved water right are subject  
38 to the subsistence -- to Title VIII in ANILCA.

39

40 So to accomplish this there's a couple of things that  
41 we have to do as a program to develop the fisheries management  
42 component. And the first thing is that we have to prepare a  
43 document according to the National Environmental Policy Act.  
44 And so what we're preparing is an Environmental Assessment.  
45 And basically that's a document that gathers up all the  
46 information used to make a decision, presents it all and  
47 explains the background for how a decision is made.

48

49 The second thing we have to do is then prepare a

50 Proposed Rule. And a rule is what actually implements the

0055

1 decision. In this case the rule would be a set of fisheries  
2 regulations that are set up the same way as the hunting  
3 regulations that you have -- you know, that we work with now.  
4 So it's just making a fisheries set of them.

5  
6 Our schedule is to complete both of these parts and  
7 send them to Washington, which is where they have to go through  
8 the final approval process, by the end of April. And right now  
9 there's not a set time in which a final rule would be  
10 published. And the reason is that there is a moratorium in our  
11 Congressional language that prevents us from publishing a final  
12 rule, to actually implementing fisheries management. That  
13 moratorium is over at the end of this Federal fiscal year.

14  
15 And what we've done in response to that moratorium is  
16 say, okay, we can't do the final piece of it, but we're going  
17 to do all of the work we can up to the final step. And so  
18 that's what we're in the middle of doing right now.

19  
20 CHAIRMAN SHELDON KATCHATAG: When is the end of the  
21 fiscal year?

22  
23 MS. MEEHAN: September 30th.

24  
25 CHAIRMAN SHELDON KATCHATAG: And by the way, that was  
26 in the funding appropriation (indiscernible-away from  
27 microphone).....

28  
29 MS. MEEHAN: Yes.

30  
31 CHAIRMAN SHELDON KATCHATAG: .....restricted use of  
32 funds.

33  
34 MS. MEEHAN: Yeah, funding. We just can't spend money  
35 on it, which kind of stops us. Within the Environmental  
36 Assessment we grouped up the State into broad regions to look  
37 at fishing patterns and also just where the fish are and then  
38 what subsistence harvest patterns are for fish.

39  
40 For this area, we included the Seward Peninsula within  
41 this broader Arctic region. So it's just for analysis purpose  
42 we included the area to make it easier to discuss it because in  
43 general the fishing patterns are similar across the Arctic.  
44 Much of the rest of the analysis here follows the existing  
45 Council borders.

46  
47 CHAIRMAN SHELDON KATCHATAG: So the Arctic is Region 7,  
48 9 and 10 or something -- 8 and 10?

49

MS. MEEHAN: Seven, 8 and 10, yeah. But when we got

0056

1 into actually writing this, Helen wrote the affected  
2 environment part of that and found that well, yeah, you can  
3 broadly say the Arctic's the same, but when you actually start  
4 writing about it she broke it out so there's little subsets,  
5 one for the Seward Peninsula area and one for Northwest and  
6 then one for Arctic. So it ends up being the same -- the  
7 discussion ends up being the same as the Council areas.

8  
9 Now, to figure out how to implement this, we had to  
10 look at alternatives and there's three different alternatives  
11 for how the Federal program could be expanded into fisheries.  
12 The first alternative is what we would call a no action  
13 alternative. And that would be the State continuing to manage  
14 all fisheries. And we discussed that for purposes of analysis  
15 just to give us a base line that's how things are today.

16  
17 The second alternative is what's called a limited  
18 jurisdiction. And that would mean -- and I'm going to walk  
19 over to the map over here and show you on the map. Let me get  
20 cozy over here with Elmer and point out. Within the limited  
21 jurisdiction, only these areas that are colored purple or pink,  
22 the drainages crossing those areas would be managed within the  
23 Federal program. Okay. So that's Alternate II.

24  
25 In contrast Alternate III would be all of the drainages  
26 within the outside boundary of a conservation system unit,  
27 would be managed within the Federal program. And so the  
28 difference is that shows up down here, the border for the Yukon  
29 Delta National Wildlife Refuge goes like this and up to the  
30 point here and then down along the coast. So all of these  
31 areas, these white areas that are selected lands, would be  
32 included within the Federal program. So that's Alternate III.

33  
34 And that's right now our preferred alternative. And  
35 when we get a chance the best way to see that is to come up and  
36 look at these maps closely and you can see where all of the  
37 drainages -- I know you can't see it from your chairs, but  
38 where the drainages are red, those would be in the Federal  
39 program and where they're blue they would not. Okay. This is  
40 a map for this region and it would show the areas included in  
41 the program. Here's a statewide map.

42  
43 Now this map might look familiar because it's the same  
44 map we took around last spring when we did the Advance Notice  
45 of Proposed Rule Making and this was the proposal in that for  
46 where the Federal program would be applied. So I urge you to  
47 come up and look at these maps at your leisure.

48  
49 CHAIRMAN SHELDON KATCHATAG: How do the wild and scenic

50 rivers fit into that?

0057

1 MS. MEEHAN: The wild and scenic rivers would be  
2 included in the program. And I think there is -- you caught us  
3 on a mapping error. The -- oh, no you didn't, it's here. The  
4 Unalakleet River from here up to its head waters is a wild and  
5 scenic river and it's in red.

6  
7 CHAIRMAN SHELDON KATCHATAG: Now the question I have is  
8 that if the wild and scenic rivers which doesn't encompass the  
9 entire Unalakleet River fall under this, does not it make sense  
10 that the migration of the fish species through the lower  
11 portion of the Unalakleet would then also come under the same  
12 program?

13  
14 MS. MEEHAN: The regulations we'd write would apply  
15 just where it is considered under Federal jurisdiction. There  
16 is a provision for dealing with issues that happen off of the  
17 Federal lands. And if you could save the question, when we get  
18 into the Proposed Rule I'll show you where it's written and  
19 point out the specific language. Okay?

20  
21 CHAIRMAN SHELDON KATCHATAG: Thank you.

22  
23 MS. CROSS: You're talking about in Alternative III,  
24 right?

25  
26 MS. MEEHAN: Yes. This is Alternative III, is what's  
27 shown here with the red drainages, and it's also all the red  
28 drainages on this map here. And that's the alternative that we  
29 think is -- we're advocating for. Helen.

30  
31 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Maybe since people can't see the map  
32 right now, before you start talking it would be useful to just  
33 point out where the red lines are, generally speaking.

34  
35 MS. MEEHAN: Okay. The red lines are within this area  
36 here, which is all of the Bering Land Bridge, around like that.  
37 So all the stuff within that area. It does not include this  
38 area here. Okay. This area is outside the park; Shishmaref  
39 Inlet. It includes the Unalakleet River from here up to its  
40 head water and it includes the drainages within the Yukon Delta  
41 National Wildlife Refuge. So this is the boundary there and  
42 it's all of the drainages within here.

43  
44 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Does it include the Maritime  
45 Refuge?

46  
47 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Yeah. I was going to say did you  
48 mention the Wales area?

49



MS. MEEHAN: There's a little piece on the Wales area.

0058

1 The marine waters out here, out two or 3,000 feet away from the  
2 shoreline and it includes this Lopp Lagoon. Okay. But right  
3 from here -- about here over are the only marine waters that  
4 are included. The rest of the marine waters are State and  
5 would remain State.

6  
7 The only marine waters that are included in the Federal  
8 program are waters that were selected prior to statehood and  
9 are included as part of a conservation system unit. So there's  
10 not much of that up here. There is a fair bit more down around  
11 Kodiak and out on the Alaskan Peninsula.

12  
13 CHAIRMAN SHELDON KATCHATAG: Isn't there also language  
14 in there that specifies that under certain conditions that  
15 these can be extended?

16  
17 MS. MEEHAN: That's another provision. And again in  
18 the Rule I can show you where that is.

19  
20 CHAIRMAN SHELDON KATCHATAG: Okay. While you're coming  
21 back, one comment. It always bothers me to see straight lines  
22 on a map because that is not the way things occur out there on  
23 the land. So it kind of -- you're talking about the Bering  
24 Land Bridge Preserve up there and it has a straight horizontal  
25 line going and I know you're going to have red lines going  
26 through there, not going to be included upstream and they're  
27 not going to be included downstream. And it seems like you're  
28 defeating the purpose of the regulation by having that kind of  
29 a boundary on managing fishery resources.

30  
31 MS. MEEHAN: It's always easier to try and follow a  
32 natural boundary, I agree. To give you an idea of the  
33 information that's in the Environmental Assessment, one thing  
34 that we tried to do was come up with a way to describe what the  
35 changes are, you know, and what does this mean. And so one way  
36 to look at it is to get an idea of how much water is there  
37 within a region. And so, for example, within the Arctic region  
38 -- now, again, this is the Arctic region and these numbers  
39 apply to this whole area. You know, the North Slope, Northwest  
40 and down to Seward Peninsula. Okay. Within that big region  
41 there is 56,658 miles of rivers and streams. So there's a lot  
42 of water within the Arctic.

43  
44 Under Alternative I, which is the State retaining all  
45 jurisdiction, the State would retain jurisdiction of all those  
46 waters. Under Alternative II, about 51 percent of those waters  
47 would be Federal waters. And under Alternative III, it's about  
48 57 percent would be Federal. So that just gives an idea of the  
49 change in jurisdiction in sort of a quantity. This is a

50 quantity way of looking at it.

0059

1           Within it we recognize that fish is a highly valued  
2 resource within this region and subsistence fishing, you know,  
3 is important. The commercial fishing within the Arctic  
4 generally is very localized. Now, obviously it's very  
5 important here in Unalakleet, but it tends to be localized  
6 throughout the region, as compared with Bristol Bay, where  
7 there is heavy commercial fishing all over the place. And the  
8 sport fishing out in this part of the country is minimal.  
9 There's some, but it's not a big part of the harvest.

10  
11           And then one other thing we looked at, or one thing we  
12 looked at when we were trying to compare the alternatives, was  
13 to look at where villages are located with respect to Federal  
14 waters. And so we looked within this region. And, again, this  
15 is the broader region. There's about 30 major villages. And  
16 of those villages only one would be adjacent to Federal waters  
17 under Alternative II, and there's only three adjacent to  
18 Federal waters -- directly adjacent to Federal waters under  
19 Alternative III. And the reason for that is most of the  
20 selected lands are right around villages. And the other thing  
21 in the Arctic is most villages are right along the coast. And  
22 so they tend not to be near Federal lands.

23  
24           CHAIRMAN SHELDON KATCHATAG: You know what they lost in  
25 all of this is that the selections under ANCSA, the primary  
26 reason for those selections was subsistence. And yet, you  
27 know, ANILCA says that it's here to protect subsistence of  
28 Natives by Natives on Native lands and yet the so-called Native  
29 lands are excluded from the program.

30  
31           MS. MEEHAN: Well, let me show you -- I think it's an  
32 odd trick of photography here because this comes out very  
33 differently if you look at some place like the Yukon, and it's  
34 best seen on a map. If we look at major villages, there is  
35 Point Lay out here and that's out -- no, Point Lay is down  
36 here. And that's not next to Federal land, and we've got  
37 Wainwright up here and that's not in Federal land. The only  
38 places that are really within Federal land is Kaktovik and then  
39 there's Umiat (ph) and I forget who's in the middle here.  
40 Atqasuk. So it's just by virtue of where most of the villages  
41 are that they're outside of Federal lands.

42  
43           In contrast, if we on Yukon, there's approximately 30  
44 villages within the Yukon Delta. And so under Alternative I,  
45 everybody's State, okay. Under Alternative II the villages --  
46 anything that's within these white area would not be included.  
47 Well, the white areas happen to be along the main stem of the  
48 Kuskokwim and the Yukon because that's where the villages are  
49 located and that's where the selected lands are. So it comes

50 out that something like 80 percent of the villages are not next

0060

1 to Federal waters in Alternative II, but in Alternative III  
2 about 80 percent are next to federal waters. And it's because  
3 of this very thing we bring that in Alternative III selected  
4 lands within a conservation unit are included within the  
5 Federal program.

6  
7 So it's a difference between this area and an area like  
8 this. But the intent within Alternative III is to include  
9 these selected lands.

10  
11 MS. CROSS: I have a question. On those alternatives  
12 has the State expressed what their preference is?

13  
14 MS. MEEHAN: No. Nobody has -- this is -- this  
15 document's not written yet. We're still in the middle of  
16 writing it and it has not been out for public review. It  
17 hasn't even been out for internal review because it's not  
18 completed. And so what I'm sharing with you is -- I'd like to  
19 think it's a masterpiece in progress. I'll just say it's a  
20 work in progress and these are preliminary findings in it, but  
21 it's kind of the basis for where we're going with it.

22  
23 CHAIRMAN SHELDON KATCHATAG: And I notice you've listed  
24 them as -- one of them as being the Preferred Alternative.  
25 Preferred by who?

26  
27 MS. MEEHAN: It's preferred by us, by the group that's  
28 preparing it.

29  
30 CHAIRMAN SHELDON KATCHATAG: Okay.

31  
32 MS. MEEHAN: And the preference is based on -- and  
33 that's a Department of Interior preference. And it's based on  
34 what was presented in the Advance Notice of Proposed Rule  
35 Making. So it's the same jurisdiction area as presented a year  
36 ago. And has had a chance for public review. So we've gotten  
37 comments back on that.

38  
39 CHAIRMAN SHELDON KATCHATAG: Another question is if  
40 Alternative II says, but not BLM, and I'm wondering why BLM  
41 lands are excluded from public lands under this system.

42  
43 MS. MEEHAN: Within this system the court case was that  
44 navigable waters in which the Federal government has a reserved  
45 water right are to be included in the program. And the only  
46 waters that the Federal government has that, it's a legal  
47 definition, is on Conservation System Units that are set up for  
48 a particular purpose.

49

CHAIRMAN SHELDON KATCHATAG: And pre-1980 and BLM was

0061

1 not authorized until '86.

2

3 MS. MEEHAN: That doesn't play into it. It's that the  
4 Conservation System Units, which are wildlife refuges, parks,  
5 preserves are designated lands for a particular purpose, which  
6 includes wildlife, protecting subsistence uses and a whole  
7 suite of things. So those waters therefore have -- there's  
8 Federal interests in those waters and therefore they're part of  
9 the program.

10

11 BLM land is essentially -- it's Federal land that by  
12 and large does not have a designated purpose, and so there's no  
13 reserve water right.

14

15 Now, there is a big exception. And on the map the  
16 Natural Petroleum Reserve is BLM land but that has a -- it's a  
17 land unit that has a specific purpose. Therefore, that area is  
18 included within the program. Similarly there are some areas  
19 down in the White Mountains. There's a White Mountain/Steese  
20 River recreational areas. Those are BLM lands, they are  
21 designated for a specific purpose, so they're included in the  
22 program.

23

24 CHAIRMAN SHELDON KATCHATAG: Hmmm.

25

26 MS. MEEHAN: And that's my best relay to you of what I  
27 was told by the lawyers.

28

29 MS. CROSS: So that's not quite a true statement that  
30 not BLM.....

31

32 CHAIRMAN SHELDON KATCHATAG: Mr. Buck.

33

34 MS. MEEHAN: It's not -- that's correct. I mean there  
35 are some BLM lands that are included. The Unalakleet River is  
36 managed by BLM.

37

38 MR. BUCK: I noticed that on your example for the  
39 region in the Arctic, on the affected environment you have --  
40 you're saying commercial fishing is localized. I don't think  
41 that's right because even in the White Mountain area we have --  
42 the fighting that affected us most, the Pass -- it was False  
43 Pass, and that's a long ways from where we were. And I know  
44 the people in the Arctic region are affected by area that are  
45 far from where they are. And so I don't think that the  
46 commercial fishing is localized.

47

48 MS. MEEHAN: I understand your point. I didn't explain  
49 that well enough. And what I was trying to get it, and I'll



50 make sure we say it better when we write the whole thing out,

0062

1 is that within this area, within the Arctic, where people  
2 commercial fish in the Arctic is localized. In other words,  
3 there's not broad commercial fisheries around the entire Arctic  
4 Coast.

5  
6 MR. BUCK: Yeah, but the regulations should include the  
7 areas where they would.....

8  
9 MS. MEEHAN: Okay.

10  
11 MR. BUCK: There should be some control on the  
12 environment that the fisheries have.

13  
14 MS. MEEHAN: Um-hum. Okay.

15  
16 MS. CROSS: Explain that localize again? Are you in  
17 reference -- are you talking about in reference to the  
18 fishermen being localized or.....

19  
20 MS. MEEHAN: What the reference is to -- and I admit  
21 it's cryptic here, but the reference is it's trying to describe  
22 what the people who live here in the Arctic region, where do  
23 they commercial fish. And in our first sort of going through  
24 the information we have, the commercial fisheries in this area  
25 are in particular little areas. It's not -- there's not a lot  
26 of commercial fishing throughout all the way around the Seward  
27 Peninsula or all the way across the Arctic Slope. So  
28 that's.....

29  
30 MS. CROSS: The definition of localized -- I'm still  
31 lost.

32  
33 MS. MEEHAN: The places where people commercial fish  
34 here, like where do you commercial fish out -- where do you  
35 commercial fish?

36  
37 MR. GARNIE: I don't commercial fish.

38  
39 MS. MEEHAN: You don't. Okay. Do any of you  
40 commercial fish? Okay. Where do you fish?

41  
42 CHAIRMAN SHELDON KATCHATAG: I'm allowed to commercial  
43 fish from Black Point to Steamboat.

44  
45 MS. MEEHAN: Um-hum.

46  
47 CHAIRMAN SHELDON KATCHATAG: And we're talking about an  
48 area of approximately a good 44 miles across -- 54 miles  
49 across, I think, encompassing one, two, three major drainages.



0063

1 MS. MEEHAN: Okay. And there's.....

2

3 CHAIRMAN SHELDON KATCHATAG: And that's just Sub-  
4 district one. And we have six sub-districts in this area.  
5 Charlie has a comment.

6

7 MS. MEEHAN: Yeah, Charlie can help me explain this.

8

9 MR. DEGNAN: Pertaining to her question, I think what  
10 we were trying to understand was areas or people. I mean  
11 you're not -- as far as localized fishing goes, you're not  
12 talking to unlimited amount of people or.....

13

14 MS MEEHAN: That's what we're trying to get at. Is that  
15 there's a limited number of people that commercial fish within  
16 their region.

17

18 MR. DEGNAN: And you're stating that they are local  
19 people?

20

21 MS. MEEHAN: Yes.

22

23 MR. DEGNAN: I don't know if that's the case or not. I  
24 think it's anybody that qualifies for a fishing permit.

25

26 CHAIRMAN SHELDON KATCHATAG: Or anybody that can buy a  
27 permit from anywhere in the world.

28

29 MS. MEEHAN: Okay. We'll make sure that it's clear in  
30 the text as to that point.

31

32 CHAIRMAN SHELDON KATCHATAG: So the next.....

33

34 MS. CROSS: Just go into Nome when the fishing period,  
35 see how many boats from Seattle are there.

36

37 MS. MEEHAN: Okay.

38

39 CHAIRMAN SHELDON KATCHATAG: Mr. Lean, you had a  
40 comment?

41

42 MR. LEAN: I don't know. It's probably a moot point  
43 now.

44

45 CHAIRMAN SHELDON KATCHATAG: Go ahead. You can be Fred  
46 Katchatag.

47

48 MR. LEAN: Mr. Chairman. Thanks.

49

CHAIRMAN SHELDON KATCHATAG: Please state your name for

0064

1 for the record so that.....

2

3 MR. LEAN: My name is Charles Lean, I'm the Area  
4 Biologist for the fisheries in Norton Sound.

5

6 There are six sub-districts in Norton Sound for salmon  
7 and a permit holder theoretically could fish in anyone of  
8 those. So you're not localized by requirement, exactly. But  
9 those sub-districts were designed to be focused around the  
10 streams that we thought were terminal to the salmon returning.  
11 And that was the motivation for setting those boundaries. And  
12 the intent was to localize the harvest to some extent, I think.

13

14

15 I think that's really what's pertinent to what was  
16 being asked.

17

18 CHAIRMAN SHELDON KATCHATAG: Before you leave, just for  
19 the record, what in your opinion has caused the major  
20 escapement problems in this region?

21

22 MR. LEAN: You're going to put me on the spot a little  
23 bit, Mr. Chairman.

24

25 CHAIRMAN SHELDON KATCHATAG: Well, at least explain  
26 from your professional standpoint as a Biologist what has not  
27 caused a problem locally.

28

29 MR. LEAN: The main problems in the salmon fisheries  
30 here in this -- in Norton Sound occur mainly in the northern  
31 three sub-districts, that is Nome, Golovin and Elim. I don't  
32 consider Unalakleet and Shaktoolik to have significant  
33 conservation problems.

34

35 In the Nome sub-district I would say that a lot of the  
36 problem there is localized to the harvest that's extracted  
37 locally. But in all cases throughout Norton Sound there are  
38 documented catches of Norton Sound salmon that occur as far  
39 south as Area M.

40

41 Tagging studies in the early '60s and also in the -- in  
42 whatever it was.

43

44 CHAIRMAN SHELDON KATCHATAG: '80.

45

46 MR. LEAN: '87 I believe it was, both recovered tags  
47 that were put on in Area M in the Norton Sound streams. And so  
48 in the '60s there was a tag recovered in the Koyuk River that  
49 was tagged there.



0065

1           There are studies showing in 1947 I believe it was, a  
2 federal study of subsistence -- of Alaska Native, meaning  
3 indigenous people's salmon use that showed roughly the same  
4 harvest that occur today in most sub-districts in Norton Sound,  
5 with the exception of the Nome sub-district where some salmon  
6 harvest is roughly 10 percent of what it was then. And so  
7 historically there were higher chum harvest occurred in Norton  
8 Sound than they currently do.

9  
10           And the reason for that incredible decline in the Nome  
11 sub-district I don't think anyone can say with total assurance  
12 where the problem falls, but it would appear to be human  
13 harvest. And it doesn't seem to be totally local.

14  
15           CHAIRMAN SHELDON KATCHATAG: The conditions of the  
16 streams themselves, the weather conditions, they don't play a  
17 factor in that in your opinion, or.....

18  
19           MR. LEAN: Weather, inclement conditions do play a  
20 minor role, but that -- you know, it's -- there hasn't been a  
21 long term trend in weather and climatic change or habitat  
22 change in this area that would account for that long term  
23 that's occurred since '47 to now. So I would say that in  
24 general habitats improved since the '50s. Less mining and less  
25 road construction practices are a little bit better than they  
26 were then.

27  
28           CHAIRMAN SHELDON KATCHATAG: So there is nothing in  
29 this area that has -- in your opinion that has contributed to  
30 the conservation problems where they occur, basically?

31  
32           MR. LEAN: No. There has been excessive harvest  
33 particularly in the Nome sub-district in the late '70s. And  
34 that situation has been corrected in my mind. And there is  
35 some gains being made but it's occurring very slowly. And so I  
36 can't say that there are no factors locally, but I don't think  
37 there are sufficient factors locally to account for the entire  
38 decline either.

39  
40           CHAIRMAN SHELDON KATCHATAG: So basically the  
41 reproductive habitat is still there, it's a problem with the  
42 returning salmon.

43  
44           MR. LEAN: Yes.

45  
46           MS. CROSS: Have you looked into fish route changes?  
47 That the fish instead of going towards Nome has changed and  
48 started to go elsewhere? I think at the last meeting I was  
49 mentioning to you when I was growing up we didn't catch any



50 salmon in St. Lawrence Island. Now there's thousand and

0066

1 hundreds of salmon, you can see it coming. Have you considered  
2 that for some reason or another the fish are not -- are moving  
3 in a different direction and spawning somewhere else? I really  
4 think that somebody should look into that because when I was  
5 growing up, even in 1960's and '70s we didn't have salmon. Now  
6 there's hundreds of thousands.

7  
8 MR. LEAN: Ms. Cross, I haven't looked into that very  
9 well. And one of the problems with looking into that is that  
10 there's very little written information on that. And so people  
11 like yourself are the best source for that information.

12  
13 It's going to be really hard to quantify, you know, to  
14 assign percentage changes and where those routes were. And  
15 another complicating factor is that St. Lawrence Island is so  
16 close to the Russian border we're not sure what occurred on the  
17 other side either. So that's a difficulty.

18  
19 MR. BUCK: Have you considered comments from the  
20 Circum-polar Conference Environmental Impact meetings that  
21 they've been having for the Circum-polar region of how the  
22 Arctic regions -- Circum-polar regions is affecting the  
23 wildlife in the whole area and how it affects our area too?  
24 Have Fish and Wildlife been attending those meetings and giving  
25 input into those meetings, or getting information from those?

26  
27 MS. MEEHAN: Why don't I answer that since I'm Fish and  
28 Wildlife. Yes, Fish and Wildlife Service has been involved in  
29 the Circum-polar meetings. You're speaking of -- it's the CAFF  
30 process?

31  
32 MR. BUCK: Yeah.

33  
34 MS. MEEHAN: Yes.

35  
36 MR. BUCK: The environmental impact.....

37  
38 MS. MEEHAN: Right. It's the Conservation of Arctic  
39 Flora and Fauna.

40  
41 MR. BUCK: Yeah.

42  
43 MS. MEEHAN: And the Fish and Wildlife Service has been  
44 very involved in it. Our focus has been with sea birds and  
45 also in land status and looking at how many lands around the  
46 circum-polar region have some sort of a protection on them to  
47 protect natural resources, protect indigenous lifestyles. And  
48 so those are the two areas where the Service has been really  
49 contributing information and helping pull things together.



0067

1           We have not been as involved in the fisheries component  
2 of that or in the -- there's an environmental contaminants  
3 component as well. However, we are within the network and keep  
4 up on the information, but we're not contributing to it. So  
5 but it's a -- that's a really important group.

6  
7           MR. BUCK: I think that that might be some of the  
8 problem. You know, like the point they're having -- the  
9 problem they're having.

10  
11          MS. MEEHAN: Um-hum.

12  
13          MR. BUCK: Not the problem that they're having but this  
14 is what's happening to the fish, they moving some up there and  
15 some place else. So I think all those considerations should be  
16 looked at and.....

17  
18          MS. MEEHAN: Um-hum.

19  
20          CHAIRMAN SHELDON KATCHATAG: One last question I have  
21 for Charlie while he's up here. In your professional opinion  
22 what success do you think the Federal government will have in  
23 managing fish like say for instance to wild and scenic river if  
24 in fact that they do not monitor or manage, harvest either in  
25 the lower stem of the Unalakleet or anywhere else in the  
26 migration route of the salmon or fish that are effected?

27  
28          MR. LEAN: I think fisheries management requires the  
29 entire migration route mind set. And I would hope that the  
30 State and the Federal government could work together on that.  
31 I do have concerns about trying to manage only one facet of the  
32 stock in any given location. And I see that as the biggest  
33 challenge in this potential change in fisheries management.

34  
35          CHAIRMAN SHELDON KATCHATAG: Thank you, Charlie. Joe?

36  
37          MR. GARNIE: I'm still kind of hung up on this  
38 localized commercial fishing. I don't understand. What is the  
39 attempt here, to localize commercial fishing.....

40  
41          MS. MEEHAN: No.

42  
43          MR. GARNIE: .....so it's for locals or.....

44  
45          MS. MEEHAN: No. There's no -- that's -- it's in a  
46 part of the document where we're just trying to describe what  
47 is going on in the Arctic in general in terms of fishing  
48 patterns. And so it's not referring to making any changes.  
49 It's just a description of fishing patterns in the Arctic, the

50 Arctic including the North Slope. And so if you look along the

0068

1 coast from the Seward Peninsula all the way around to the  
2 Canadian Border over there on the east, there's -- you could  
3 almost name where there are important commercial fisheries. By  
4 Unalakleet, there's some in Kotzebue Sound, there's very  
5 little, if any, commercial fishing from Point Lay on up to  
6 Barrow, and then there's one small white fish fishery at the  
7 mouth of the Colville River.

8  
9 And so from a regional perspective a way to describe  
10 that is to say that the commercial fishing in this big broad  
11 region is localized. In comparison, if you look at Bristol Bay  
12 down there by Dillingham and just north of the Alaska  
13 Peninsula, that's a very heavy commercial fishing district.  
14 There's commercial fishing all over the place there. And so  
15 that's a broad scale commercial fishing. And so it's just a  
16 way of trying to describe differences between regions.

17  
18 If it doesn't help clear up differences between  
19 regions, we'll take it out of the doc -- you know, I mean if it  
20 doesn't work we'll take it out. But that's what it is, it's  
21 just an attempt to describe fishing patterns here as they exist  
22 right now.

23  
24 CHAIRMAN SHELDON KATCHATAG: I think you'd be better  
25 off calling them not localized, but rather comparatively small  
26 scale fisheries.

27  
28 MS. MEEHAN: That's a better way to say it.

29  
30 CHAIRMAN SHELDON KATCHATAG: Because if you look at the  
31 map Bristol Bay Fishery is an even smaller area than even sub-  
32 district one, and yet the commercial fisheries is on the order  
33 of 10's to 20's, 30's magnitude, volume-wise. So I think it  
34 would be more descriptive to say it's a small scale fishery  
35 rather than localized. Bristol Bay itself is localized. It  
36 just happens to be one of the world's largest producing  
37 fisheries.

38  
39 MS. MEEHAN: Right. In volume, yeah.

40  
41 CHAIRMAN SHELDON KATCHATAG: But it is very localized.

42  
43 MS. MEEHAN: I appreciate your re-wording on that or  
44 re-casting that and offer you the opportunity to come down and  
45 help us write this if you'd like, Sheldon.

46  
47 CHAIRMAN SHELDON KATCHATAG: GS-18.

48  
49 MS. MEEHAN: Yeah, well.....



0069

1 MR. DEGNAN: Mr. Chairman, I have a question.

2

3 CHAIRMAN SHELDON KATCHATAG: Mr. Degnan.

4

5 MR. DEGNAN: How are you proposing to handle waters  
6 outside the -- beyond the State waters?

7

8 MS. MEEHAN: There's a place in the regulations that  
9 specifically speaks to that. And what I'd like to do is work  
10 through this. And what I'm trying to get to is actually going  
11 through the proposed regulations. And I can point out exactly  
12 where we have that.

13

14 MR. DEGNAN: One of the concerns I have is the  
15 migratory nature of the salmon and other fish species that  
16 travel a long way during their lifestyle. And using Western  
17 science, Western society is not sure and they never are sure of  
18 where they actually go. But people who live up here in Alaska  
19 that are Alaska Natives generally have a pretty good idea of  
20 where these species migrate and it's called local knowledge and  
21 it's not recognized by Western science as a valid observation  
22 of what goes on.

23

24 So it might be a good idea to recognize local tribal  
25 groups and their expertise in relation to wildlife, habitat,  
26 conservation practices and harvests. Because I noticed when  
27 the Federal government adopted the licensing and regulations as  
28 the initial starting point for management of wildlife  
29 resources, it really distressed me because the State does not  
30 recognize local Native group officials. They recognize it  
31 indirectly and treat them as if they don't know what they're  
32 talking about.

33

34 And that's a big concern to the people here because the  
35 people here are the ones that are dependent on subsistence  
36 resources. And it's the least discriminatory of all  
37 government. So, you know, you need to really look hard at that  
38 and look at how you're going to protect Alaska Natives'  
39 traditional and customary practices. And you need to recognize  
40 local differences because the State is very huge. Thank you.

41

42 MS. MEEHAN: I appreciate your comments. And I hope to  
43 speak to them directly as I work through and get into the  
44 latter part of this.

45

46 CHAIRMAN SHELDON KATCHATAG: Any comments or questions  
47 for Charlie Lean before he excuses himself from the mike?

48

49 MR. GARNIE: Yeah, Charlie, I'm just curious if any



50 stages have been now -- now you know the community of Nome is

0070

1 growing and a lot of high speed jet boats and entertainment  
2 equipment, what have you, running up and down the spawning  
3 grounds. Has that been looked into, and boundary grounds? Is  
4 there any no Wake zones or anything been put up?

5  
6 MR. LEAN: There haven't been studies done in the  
7 Seward Peninsula that I'm aware of. There have been studies  
8 done in New Zealand and also on the Kenai River.

9  
10 MR. GARNIE: I was over in the Mat-Su Valley for four  
11 years and most every stream I was in up in there had no wake  
12 zones.

13  
14 CHAIRMAN SHELDON KATCHATAG: Has what?

15  
16 MR. GARNIE: No wake zones just on account of spawning  
17 grounds.

18  
19 CHAIRMAN SHELDON KATCHATAG: Oh, no wake zone.

20  
21 MS. MEEHAN: Wake.

22  
23 MS. CROSS: Wake up.

24  
25 MS. MEEHAN: You have to drive your boat slow so you  
26 don't splash the river bank and.....

27  
28 CHAIRMAN SHELDON KATCHATAG: Oh, no wake?

29  
30 MS. MEEHAN: Yeah. Sorry, my hearing is -- I have to  
31 apologize for my hearing. I'm going to get my uncle's hearing  
32 aid, I guess. I was thinking no wait.

33  
34 CHAIRMAN SHELDON KATCHATAG: I'm sorry. Go ahead with  
35 your question.

36  
37 MR. GARNIE: No. I just was getting concerned with the  
38 size rivers we have. They're pretty small and we have a lot of  
39 big boats running up and down them, especially moose hunting  
40 season.

41  
42 MR. LEAN: Mr. Garnie, that's an often expressed  
43 concern by several communities in the near vicinity of Nome.  
44 The concern I think is prop wash and not just wake. The thrust  
45 of the motor, be it a jet or a prop, tend to disturb eggs, the  
46 salmon eggs in the gravel. And at certain life stages if those  
47 eggs even rotate once, that's the end of that egg. And I think  
48 there is considerable concern about the eggs that are seen --  
49 that are basically already dead when rolling down stream during

50 spawning. And I -- salmon basically I think you have about 36

0071

1 hours from spawning until the egg is -- can't be disturbed for  
2 about a three month period. And then at that point, then the  
3 eggs can be rolled around quite a lot.

4  
5 But if you see eggs rolling downstream, that's a  
6 natural part of spawning and that's the important part of the  
7 food chain for some of the other fish. And I think even more  
8 important than wake is the prop thrust and I think that's what  
9 people are creating obviously. And not to sound overly  
10 bureaucratic, but the Department of Environmental Conservation  
11 and the Department of Fish and Game have roles to play in  
12 exclusion zones for boat traffic. And I think that's what  
13 we're really talking about, is exclusion zone for boats.

14  
15 CHAIRMAN SHELDON KATCHATAG: You know, you mentioned  
16 prop wash but I -- the concern that I think most everybody here  
17 is expressing with regard to jet boats is they have an intake  
18 that is aimed directly down. And I'm looking at that as a big  
19 vacuum cleaner because it does -- you do have that flow, and  
20 especially if you're getting into a shallow or riffles (sic),  
21 which is basically where your salmon like to spawn, is I'm  
22 wondering what kind of an impact that has if you're having this  
23 vacuum affect over the spawning grounds.

24  
25 MR. LEAN: Mr. Chairman, as I said, I place less  
26 importance on that that you, apparently. But in the research  
27 that I've read, the main killer, we're referring to jet boats,  
28 is the pressure change. And it's kind of like a shock wave  
29 that accompanies the jet boat as it moves upstream. As you  
30 said, there's a suction and then all of a sudden a thrust as  
31 the boat passes over a given spot. And it's that pressure  
32 change that does more damage to the eggs, I think, than the  
33 suction or the after effect of the wash, but it's that abrupt  
34 pressure change.

35  
36 And also I was trying to say that those eggs that are  
37 on the surface lying there, in my mind those are write-offs.  
38 They may not be dead at the moment, but if be it a boat or ice  
39 is involved or whatever, those eggs are likely to be rolled,  
40 they're likely to die. The eggs that are buried in the gravel,  
41 they're the ones that are viable in a good position to survive  
42 the winter. And it's the pressure change and the disruption of  
43 the gravel that man causes that's the controlled thing here.

44  
45 CHAIRMAN SHELDON KATCHATAG: Okay. I was just wanting  
46 a little information for myself on that. Grace.

47  
48 MS. CROSS: And so I'm correct to say that although  
49 there have been concerns that have been about it, nobody has

50 done anything to check into it?

0072

1 MR. LEAN: Ms. Cross, if you mean no action's been  
2 taken, you're correct. Looking into it is another thing.  
3 That's where I came up with all this information that I just  
4 tried to relay. There are two sides to every coin. There are  
5 those that like their jet boats and those that don't. And the  
6 Fish and Game Advisory Committee has not seen fit to take this  
7 up as an important issue. And.....

8  
9 MS. CROSS: Even though the area which has lost most  
10 fish is around Nome, where it's the most concentration of this  
11 type of boat and mining affairs. Most of that consider all the  
12 mining (indiscernible) and how much activity is done in the  
13 rivers. So it seems to me that the other -- I think this is  
14 kind of like a prime example where the village people or the  
15 rural people are ignored because maybe it's a question of  
16 whether or not like he was saying, you know, we've been there  
17 forever and sometimes what we have say must be heeded to, even  
18 though we're rural Alaskans.

19  
20 It seems curious that the majority of the rest of the  
21 area that we are, the fishing is all right except for those  
22 pertaining to Nome. There has to be a reason for that. But  
23 the excuse that Fish and Game constantly give out is over-  
24 harvest by people. But when you go back and look when did the  
25 decline start and think well, was there more activity in the  
26 rivers at the time, and when people start expressing concerns  
27 about it, it really concerns me when both entities, the State  
28 and the Federal, ignore those. So I hope that at some point in  
29 time the local people will be taken seriously and either the  
30 State or the Feds will start checking and just seeing if what  
31 they're saying has any -- is indeed a factor.

32  
33 MR. LEAN: If I could respond, Mrs. Cross, I understand  
34 your frustration there. I wish you would understand mine. The  
35 situation is that we have done some research and that what we  
36 think are the mechanisms of damage that jet boats and other  
37 boats do. And in some of the more obvious cases, to name one,  
38 the Fourth of July snow machine race down the Nome River we  
39 have opposed and closed.

40  
41 CHAIRMAN SHELDON KATCHATAG: You mean the raft race?

42  
43 MR. LEAN: No. I mean the.....

44  
45 CHAIRMAN SHELDON KATCHATAG: Oh, snow machine?

46  
47 MR. LEAN: .....snow machine race on the Fourth of  
48 July.

49

CHAIRMAN SHELDON KATCHATAG: They have a water skipping

0073

1 race?

2

3 MR. LEAN: Yes. Well, they did one year. And I  
4 opposed that. And it wasn't a pleasant thing to oppose. At  
5 times there -- but I do believe that you have to take stands on  
6 certain things and -- but on the other hand, the State process  
7 is a relatively democratic one and it consists of a public  
8 forum much like this one where people come in and make their  
9 complaint.

10

11 And there's a fine line between biology and policy  
12 determination. And in my judgment that is a policy decision  
13 and that's why I have not taken a stronger stand on that. And  
14 I think that this is something that needs to be settled amongst  
15 the local people. And I agree with you, there are many  
16 contributing causes to things and it's not just local harvest  
17 and I don't believe that I've said that.

18

19 CHAIRMAN SHELDON KATCHATAG: Now, one last thing before  
20 we let you go. You mentioned a New Zealand study. I didn't  
21 quite catch all of that.

22

23 MR. LEAN: Jet boats are a popular engine form in New  
24 Zealand and some of the earliest work was done there on the  
25 effects of jet boats in sport fisheries.

26

27 CHAIRMAN SHELDON KATCHATAG: Okay. Thank you. If  
28 there are no further questions for Charlie, we'll allow Rosa to  
29 finish her presentation. Sorry, Rosa. Didn't mean to get off  
30 on a -- like Dennis Miller said, I didn't mean to get off on a  
31 ramp.

32

33 MS. MEEHAN: It's all information. As I've mentioned,  
34 we've had a chance to come out and talk with you before about  
35 the -- first about the Advanced Notice of Proposed Rule Making  
36 which we were out in Nome last May. There actually were 11  
37 meetings held around the State. There was another opportunity  
38 for input last fall during the Fall Regional Council Meetings.

39

40 In conjunction with the Regional Council Meetings we  
41 prepared a written package of a lot of the same material that  
42 I've presented to you and mailed it out to the mailing list  
43 that we have in the office which have some huge number of  
44 people on it, requesting comments. So we've received a lot of  
45 public input on how to implement Federal fisheries  
46 jurisdiction. And so I just wanted to remind you all that, you  
47 know, we've been talking about this. We've listened to what  
48 people have said. We've been trying to incorporate that as we  
49 go along in developing the process.





0074

1           A remaining issue that we have not fully come to grips  
2 with has to do with customary trade. And we have a preliminary  
3 approach for addressing customary trade that's presented in the  
4 Proposed Rule, and I want to show you the way we've got the  
5 regulatory language written. But I just wanted to highlight  
6 this to you because we recognized up front that customary trade  
7 is very important, it's potentially very controversial and we  
8 wanted to get the benefit of you all's input as we developed an  
9 approach for addressing customary trade. And it's by no means  
10 a settled issue.

11  
12           So all of this is leading up to a Preliminary Draft  
13 Proposed Rule. And we're using these words because we have to  
14 be very careful that we're not straying from the directive that  
15 we received in our budget document. And it was the budget  
16 language that prohibited us from doing any kind of a final  
17 rule. So we just keep saying over and over again that it's  
18 just a Preliminary Draft Proposed Rule.

19  
20           And this is where it will be easiest to follow from  
21 that stapled package that Cliff handed out to you. And if  
22 you'd kind of flip past all of these pages that have the little  
23 overheads on it, and then there's a letter that says, Dear  
24 Regional Advisory Council Member. And what this letter does is  
25 explains that the pages that follow are a first cut at a  
26 Proposed Rule.

27  
28           And there are some important parts within this Proposed  
29 Rule that I want to point out to you, so that when you have a  
30 chance to take this home -- this is not in your Council books.  
31 This part here comes from the stapled package. No, it's not  
32 that one, Edgar, it's -- I want to make sure everybody has the  
33 correct package in front of them. Yeah.

34  
35           And if you'd flip about halfway through it, there where  
36 it has the letter. The Draft Proposed Rule is set up the same  
37 way that the regulations are that we deal with for the  
38 terrestrial program, the hunting and fishing -- or the hunting  
39 part, I don't want to fishing. So there's four different  
40 subparts to it. And Subpart A and B has the general  
41 provisions, general program structure.

42  
43           And as you recall back in the Fall Council meetings one  
44 of the questions we asked you and we asked all of the other  
45 Councils, was do you think you can do -- could you handle  
46 fisheries as well as wildlife. And by and large the Councils  
47 around the State their comments were that, yes, we could do  
48 fisheries, that we want to not set up a second Council, but  
49 take on the additional burden of fisheries. However, we did

50 hear comments that -- or agreement that it would be good to

0075

1 shift the fisheries cycle opposite from the wildlife cycle. So  
2 that it would not interfere with the fishing season.

3  
4 So that's the sort of information that's in that  
5 Subpart A and B, that there will be no major changes to the  
6 overall program structure. The other part was that we'd  
7 maintain the existing Council boundaries, but recognize that  
8 particularly in areas like the Yukon, that there is a lot of  
9 related fishery issues up and down the Yukon River. And so  
10 there's recognition by those Councils along the Yukon Drainage  
11 that there'd have to be a high degree of cooperation.

12  
13 So just going through -- what I want to do is go  
14 through this Proposed Rule, and it starts with page one, that  
15 says Regional Council Review Draft on the top of it. And the  
16 first place that there is a change -- now this -- because the  
17 Subpart A and B is the same as we've already got, there's just  
18 been a few changes to it. Joe, you're in the wrong document.  
19 That's the document you need. So it's the next page.

20  
21 Okay. On page two you'll see there is a lot of text  
22 that's shaded. And all of that is -- those are just additions  
23 or corrections within our existing Subpart A that identify  
24 areas that will fall under Federal jurisdiction. It's the  
25 written description of what you see on the map up there.

26  
27 And then another part that has come up a couple of  
28 times has to do with -- is on page seven, and it addresses the  
29 issue of dealing with -- when there is an activity occurring  
30 off of Federal public lands, but that might effect subsistence  
31 resources on Federal public lands. Okay. So this would be the  
32 Area M issue.

33  
34 MS. CROSS: Page what?

35  
36 MS. MEEHAN: It's page seven.

37  
38 MS. CROSS: Not in the.....

39  
40 CHAIRMAN SHELDON KATCHATAG: In this thing.

41  
42 MS. CROSS: Oh, okay. The shaded one.

43  
44 MS. MEEHAN: You've got it?

45  
46 MS. CROSS: Um-hum. Where are we at now?

47  
48 MS. MEEHAN: It's on page seven, and then there's  
49 Subpart B - Program Structure. Down towards the -- it's the

50 bottom third of the page.

0076

1 MS. CROSS: Um-hum.

2

3 MS. MEEHAN: And it's that first shaded area there,  
4 it's under that little (a). And that shaded area says that the  
5 Secretaries retain their existing authority to restrict or  
6 eliminate hunting, fishing or trapping activities which occur  
7 on lands or waters in Alaska other than public lands.

8

9 This is a bureaucratic way of saying that the  
10 Secretaries, and this is the Secretary of Interior and the  
11 Secretary of Agriculture have the authority to effect actions  
12 that are off Federal public lands. Okay. That's an existing  
13 authority. They've always had that. It's stated in here to  
14 make it clear that that authority exist.

15

16 If you go to the next page, the next page talks about  
17 -- lists out the duties of the Board. And that starts at Item  
18 number 4 on page eight and it goes -- and there's a whole long  
19 list of things that the Federal Board does. And these are all  
20 the things that the Board does right now in implementing  
21 hunting -- the terrestrial part of the program.

22

23 At the bottom of that page there's another shaded area,  
24 and this is an important point, this is how the Board is going  
25 to be involved in activities that are off of Federal public  
26 lands. And what it says is that the Board is going to evaluate  
27 whether hunting, fishing, or trapping activities which occur on  
28 lands or waters in Alaska other than Federal public lands,  
29 okay, so off of Federal lands, when those activities interfere  
30 with subsistence, hunting, fishing or trapping to such an  
31 extent as to result in a failure to provide subsistence  
32 priority.

33

34 And so the interpretation of this is that if there's an  
35 action, if something's going on off of Federal public lands  
36 that's preventing subsistence harvest on Federal public lands,  
37 the Federal Subsistence Board has to review that, evaluate is  
38 this really happening and then what they will do is make a  
39 recommendation to the Secretary. And it's depending on whose  
40 land it is, is whether it'd be the Secretary of the Interior or  
41 the Secretary of Agriculture. Anything out in this part of the  
42 world would go to the Secretary of Interior.

43

44 So the important point here is that the Federal  
45 Subsistence Board will not be the entity making a decision,  
46 that it's a decision that would be made by the Secretary of  
47 Interior.

48

49 CHAIRMAN SHELDON KATCHATAG: So basically what this

50 language is saying, that damage to the resource has to be so

0077

1 great that you curtail subsistence harvest all together before  
2 the Secretary takes action to remedy that?

3

4 MS. MEEHAN: The language is that it interferes with.  
5 It's not that it stops it all together. But I think it is  
6 going to have to.....

7

8 CHAIRMAN SHELDON KATCHATAG: It says, to such an extent  
9 as to result in a failure to provide the subsistence priority.  
10 In other words, the subsistence activity has to be shut down  
11 before the Secretary can take any action.

12

13 MS. MEEHAN: That's right. Yes. That's -- yes.

14

15 CHAIRMAN SHELDON KATCHATAG: And I think that's waiting  
16 too long because generally we're the last people to have a say  
17 anyway whenever there's a resource problem because all your  
18 commercial fishermen are going to be hollering about it all the  
19 way to the mouth of the river. And it's going to be -- and then  
20 you're going to find that once the commercial fishing activity  
21 is cut off, that subsistence is -- if it's that bad, the  
22 subsistence is going to be totally cut off like it is in the  
23 Nome area, and then we've got to wait -- they've been waiting,  
24 what, 15 years in Nome to try to get their fish back. And I  
25 think that's waiting a little too long. It's like closing the  
26 barn door after the horses are gone.

27

28 MS. MEEHAN: It's not a failure to be able to do  
29 subsistence, it's a failure to have a priority for subsistence,  
30 which is an important distinction. In other words, if there  
31 were management decisions being made by another agency to put a  
32 gate across the Unalakleet River so no fish could get up to the  
33 upper reaches, that's an action that the Board could make a  
34 recommendation to the Secretary that, wait a minute, you stop  
35 all the fish here, we don't get them up there, don't do that.  
36 You could say that ahead of time. Okay. So it has to do with  
37 the priority, not with -- it's not waiting until there's a loss  
38 of resource.

39

40 CHAIRMAN SHELDON KATCHATAG: Well, I would feel more  
41 comfortable if it was written in the language that there has to  
42 be a conservation concern expressed, rather than waiting for  
43 there to be a failure to provide for the priority. Because  
44 that tells me that the resource is already endangered.

45

46 MS. CROSS: You're talking about a result already being  
47 there.

48

49 MS. MEEHAN: Okay.





0078

1 MS. CROSS: And I had a suggestion or a question. Why  
2 is this given to us now because we could have been reading it  
3 within the last few days.

4  
5 MS. MEEHAN: It was a flat out mistake in the shuffle  
6 of getting books put together that this portion was not  
7 included in the books. And I sincerely apologize for that.  
8 This is a Preliminary Draft, you're the first people to see  
9 this. And there is certainly an opportunity to go ahead and  
10 provide comments now or provide written comments to us.

11  
12 You will have another opportunity to look at this after  
13 we're past the moratorium and can publish something in the  
14 Federal Register. Because the next step for this will be --  
15 it's got to go to Washington and then everybody's got to be  
16 politically happy. Once that happens, it will be published in  
17 the Federal Register and there will be additional public  
18 meetings about this Proposed Rule.

19  
20 Because this group is a Federally Recognized Advisory  
21 Group, you're getting an advance look at it. Now, again, I  
22 really apologize that it was not in the book initially, but  
23 what I can offer is a chance to do written comments and point  
24 out that you will have a chance to see it again. But you are  
25 seeing a very -- this is pre-publication, pre-going anyplace  
26 else version.

27  
28 MS. CROSS: Mr. Chair, can I make a suggestion? After  
29 this is done, perhaps we can have to read this tomorrow and  
30 perhaps we can recall her and ask her questions if we have any  
31 more questions after we have reviewed this? But, you know, she  
32 can go ahead and go through that today, but I have a feeling by  
33 the time I read this intensively I'll have questions or  
34 comments to make.

35  
36 CHAIRMAN SHELDON KATCHATAG: The proper procedure, Ms.  
37 Cross, is to ask for reconsideration of this particular  
38 document tomorrow if you have any other further questions.

39  
40 MS. CROSS: Okay.

41  
42 CHAIRMAN SHELDON KATCHATAG: Is that acceptable?

43  
44 MS. MEEHAN: That's fine with me. I'm glad to talk  
45 about it. And if you've got questions, you know, on break or  
46 this evening or something and you want to ask me about it, I  
47 would be more than happy to try and explain stuff. So think of  
48 me as a resource on this and I'll try and walk you through it.

49

What I'd like to finish out doing is go through and

0079

1 point out some of the parts that I think are real critical that  
2 I really want to draw your attention to. So this clearly is  
3 one area that's of great interest. And so I wanted to make  
4 sure that you had a chance to for sure pick that language out.  
5

6 The next part where there's a change of importance is  
7 -- what I just pointed out to you were the two major changes in  
8 the Subpart A and B. So that's taking our existing  
9 regulations, making changes so that we can adopt fisheries.  
10 Those are the two important changes.  
11

12 The next part of the regulations, which starts on page  
13 16, starts with a new part of regulations, and this is the  
14 Subpart C. And in Subpart C are the customary and traditional  
15 determinations.  
16

17 And to give us a starting point on writing these down  
18 we took the customary and traditional determinations that were  
19 in place in 1989 when the Federal -- just before the Federal  
20 government assumed subsistence management. So these are the  
21 customary and traditional determinations the State had in place  
22 the last time the State was recognizing a subsistence priority.  
23 So it's a starting point. And, as you can see, they're very  
24 broad for this area. Kotzebue-Northern Area, it's all fish.  
25 And in Kotzebue District it's salmon, sheefish and char. And  
26 then in Norton Sound-Port Clarence Area, it's salmon for the  
27 residents of that area.  
28

29 CHAIRMAN SHELDON KATCHATAG: When we get into that --  
30 if and when we get into that I think, you know, our area should  
31 be all fish. I don't think there's too many fish that we don't  
32 subsist on.  
33

34 MS. MEEHAN: Okay. Point taken. The process that we  
35 envision for doing this is that -- is to run it exactly like we  
36 do for the terrestrial part. Is that we have regulations,  
37 there are proposals to change regulations, they're analyzed,  
38 analysis is brought to you, the Council, for your  
39 recommendation, and then it goes to the Board. And so what  
40 we've got here is definitely intended to be a starting point.  
41 Perhaps not a perfect starting point, but it's a place to get  
42 the program going.  
43

44 CHAIRMAN SHELDON KATCHATAG: Appreciate it.  
45

46 MS. MEEHAN: The one other part of this that I really  
47 want to point out to you is -- see, we have the Subpart C. And  
48 then on page 19 there is -- this is the part -- what you have  
49 in front -- first of all, what you have in front of you is not

50 the entire regulation for the entire State, it's the portions

0080

1 that pertain to this area. This part here does pertain to the  
2 whole State because there are some definitions that are  
3 important statewide. And it's on page 19, numbers 11 and 12.  
4 And these are the ones that refer to customary trade.

5  
6 And we've had several discussions, we've had an awful  
7 lot of public input on customary trade. Things that we've  
8 heard are -- we've heard over and over again about the  
9 importance of customary trade and we've heard over and over  
10 again how customary trade is very regional and that it's not  
11 something that can be defined by a single monetary limit  
12 statewide.

13  
14 We've also heard serious concerns about the potential  
15 for customary trade if sale is allowed to develop another  
16 market and therefore cause an impact on fishery resources and  
17 also an impact on commercial fishing. So that's a potential  
18 for a conflict there.

19  
20 In trying to balance all of this, a recommended  
21 approach that we've got in the regulation here is this approach  
22 as in number 11 and 12. And the first part of that is: "No  
23 person may buy or sell fish, their parts, or their eggs which  
24 have been taken for subsistence uses, except as provided by the  
25 Federal Subsistence Board." And so what that means in a  
26 practical sense is that on a regional basis the Councils would  
27 come forward with a proposal that would define customary trade  
28 in their area for review by the Board, and then get Board  
29 approval. So that the result is customary trade would be  
30 defined on a regional basis. In other words, you would come up  
31 with the definition of customary trade for your region. Okay.

32  
33 The second part of this is number 12, and what it says  
34 is that: "Persons licensed by the State of Alaska to engage in  
35 a fisheries business may not receive for commercial purposes or  
36 barter or solicit to barter for subsistence taken salmon or  
37 their parts." In other words, you could not take subsistence  
38 salmon, and in this case I'll use the example of salmon roe  
39 taken on the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta and take it to a fish  
40 processor for commercial sale.

41  
42 However, you can take fish or their parts and barter  
43 them, you could sell them to your neighbors, you could sell  
44 them to somebody who is going to actually use the fish  
45 themselves, but not to a commercial processor.

46  
47 CHAIRMAN SHELDON KATCHATAG: You know that's where I  
48 think that regulations get into micro-managing because now  
49 you're saying that if a guy is engaged in subsistence fishing

50 for his dogs he has to throw the roe away. And then you get

0081

1 into definitions of wanton waste. You're restricting a  
2 potential, you know, maximum utilization of the resource when,  
3 you know, if you don't allow it then, you know.....

4  
5 MS. MEEHAN: Okay.

6  
7 CHAIRMAN SHELDON KATCHATAG: He could be a dog musher  
8 like Joe Garnie here and he could get 3,000 salmon for his dogs  
9 and say half of them have eggs, you're talking 4,500 pounds of  
10 eggs. I'm sure that as a dog musher trying to compete with  
11 Doug Swingley and his \$300,000.00 a year sponsorship, that  
12 4,500 pounds of eggs might bring him another \$15,000.00 which  
13 he could apply to his dogs here. But, you know, that's the  
14 kind of problems I see that we're going to have down the road.

15  
16  
17 Where does that fit in with the North Pacific Fisheries  
18 Management Council's new policies where they're cutting down on  
19 billions of pounds of non-utilization of fish? We're getting  
20 like between 23 and 26 percent harvest off some of their bottom  
21 fishing out there and they're throwing the other 74 to 77  
22 percent of the fish away. And supposedly the (indiscernible)  
23 and all this billions of pounds of waste are is to come into  
24 play. And the same way with anybody else, you know, it doesn't  
25 make any sense if like Charlie says that these eggs, if they  
26 haven't been properly laid by fish, that they're dead fish  
27 anyway. I mean they're dead eggs. You know, why not sell them  
28 to the Japanese who love them as a delicacy?

29  
30 MS. MEEHAN: The issue that we're trying to balance,  
31 and it definitely pertains to the Yukon.

32  
33 CHAIRMAN SHELDON KATCHATAG: I can understand that you  
34 don't want people to be engaged in strictly roe stripping, even  
35 though they have allowed that this year in the hatcheries.  
36 You're talking millions of pounds of fish that are going by the  
37 way and they're making the bucks off of the roe. Why? Because  
38 they have enough ump to go to the lawmakers and say, give us an  
39 exception this year because we cannot sell the fish, they're  
40 going to go to waste anyway.

41  
42 MS. MEEHAN: Do you fee your dog salmon?

43  
44 MR. GARNIE: No.

45  
46 CHAIRMAN SHELDON KATCHATAG: I do. I feed them  
47 anything they'll eat.

48  
49 MS. MEEHAN: I've got your comment written down. And,



50 as I've mentioned, this is a first cut at it and I'm trying to

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1 share with you some of the issues that we're trying to balance  
2 on this.

3  
4 One of the real important things that we want to do  
5 with this is to try and recognize what are the traditional  
6 practices and make sure that there is provision for that  
7 because we understand how important that is. At the same time  
8 we want to prevent resource problems. So we're looking for a  
9 way to do that. This is our first cut at it, at trying to  
10 balance that.

11  
12 You know, here it is, take your best shot at it.

13  
14 CHAIRMAN SHELDON KATCHATAG: Yeah. I know, you know.  
15 But I hate to see us getting into, you know, this micro-  
16 managing type situations when you could have a blanket  
17 statement, abuse of the subsistence fishery will not be  
18 tolerated, you know. And then if somebody has a problem with  
19 somebody that they feel is abusing the subsistence fishing by  
20 roe stripping or any other type of commercial activity, then  
21 they bring it to the appropriate authorities and deal with it  
22 that way, rather than micro-managing you will not, you know.

23  
24 MR. GARNIE: Well, the State already has escapement and  
25 everything in the rivers as far as how much fishing is actually  
26 going on. I mean the fishing is monitored.

27  
28 MS. MEEHAN: Um-hum. Absolutely.

29  
30 MR. GARNIE: And so selling a little bit of roe I don't  
31 think is going to destroy the salmon run.

32  
33 MS. MEEHAN: The problem -- there is the experience on  
34 the Yukon River. The State did open a subsistence roe fishery  
35 that allowed for sale of roe and what happened was that fishery  
36 grew exponentially to the point where the fishery -- there  
37 became a resource problem with the fishery and so they closed  
38 it down.

39  
40 And so since we've got that example, we don't want to  
41 repeat a past mistake. And so we're looking for a way to not  
42 have that happen. There are provisions for commercial harvest  
43 and commercial harvest of fish for roe that are already  
44 present. And so, you know, we don't want to ignore that that's  
45 there. What we're trying to do here is make sure that we can  
46 protect what are customary practices. So I want to keep the  
47 full picture of everything that's out there.

48  
49 And also a comment sort of tagging back to managing

50 fish along the whole drainage. One thing that's very obvious

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1 to me is that the Feds are not going to be able to manage  
2 fisheries on their own by any means. It is going to have to  
3 require cooperation with the State and shared goals. And one  
4 of those goals has got to be to maintain a subsistence  
5 priority. A second goal that's equally important is to  
6 maintain stock.

7  
8 CHAIRMAN SHELDON KATCHATAG: That's supposed to be the  
9 first goal.

10  
11 MS. MEEHAN: I said they were equally important,  
12 Sheldon. And I was thinking of Mr. Mundy's paper. But that's  
13 something that if you don't have fish, you know, obviously you  
14 don't have any fisheries. So it's an important premises that  
15 have to be there.

16  
17 CHAIRMAN SHELDON KATCHATAG: Well, I agree with that  
18 but, you know.....

19  
20 MS. CROSS: So in other words, it's all right for  
21 commercial fishermen to throw away the fish and sell the roe  
22 but, however, we may eat the fish but we cannot trade the roe?

23  
24 MS. MEEHAN: Barter is absolutely permitted. And sale  
25 to somebody who's going to use it themselves is also permitted  
26 the way this was written. But specifically what's not  
27 permitted by the way this is written is sale to a commercial  
28 processor.

29  
30 CHAIRMAN SHELDON KATCHATAG: That puts it in a  
31 different light.

32  
33 MS. CROSS: That does make any.....

34  
35 CHAIRMAN SHELDON KATCHATAG: Because Charlie could  
36 interpret that as saying, any person licensed by the State of  
37 Alaska to engage in a fisheries business. Commercial fishing  
38 is a fisheries business, is it not, Charlie? So you're  
39 restricting a fisherman right there.

40  
41 MS. MEEHAN: No. That's not the intent and that's not  
42 the way it's written. It's if something's caught under a  
43 subsistence season for subsistence purposes, that is not to be  
44 sold to a commercial processor.

45  
46 So if you, even though you commercial fish, if you're  
47 also a subsistence fisherman and you catch fish for your family  
48 and you catch more fish than you can use, you can trade them to  
49 your neighbor for something else, or you could sell them to

50 somebody else that's going to use them themselves, but you

0084

1 could not take them down to the processing ship and sell it to  
2 them.

3

4 CHAIRMAN SHELDON KATCHATAG: I agree with that.  
5 Anyway, we're getting a little far a field here.

6

7 MR. BUCK: I think you can get ways around that because  
8 you can take (indiscernible) percent of White Mountain and you  
9 can't sell them to somebody that'll take it to Anchorage and  
10 make money off it. But you can sell them to that person and  
11 say they're dog feed and then they can take them to Anchorage  
12 and sell them as dog feed and then the people will eat them  
13 down there. I think there's going to be ways around all the --  
14 whether -- the language that you used, there's going to be ways  
15 around it.

16

17 MS. MEEHAN: Well, I hope what I've tried to share with  
18 you is the intent. And if there's a better way to word it, or  
19 if there's a better way to express this, we're certainly opened  
20 to suggestion on it.

21

22 CHAIRMAN SHELDON KATCHATAG: I think you should put in  
23 there language that it is a violation of these regulations to  
24 abuse the subsistence fishery with the intent of strictly  
25 making money off of it, you know. That that's not what  
26 subsistence is all about. And we'll get into that. We've got,  
27 let me see, we've got eight more months before the moratorium  
28 closes anyway.

29

30 MS. MEEHAN: Yeah. There's.....

31

32 MS. CROSS: And this section pertains only to salmon?

33

34 MS. MEEHAN: Yes. It's to barter for subsistence taken  
35 salmon or their parts, that's correct, the way it's written.

36

37 CHAIRMAN SHELDON KATCHATAG: Now, what section are you  
38 in?

39

40 MS. MEEHAN: I'm in.....

41

42 MS. CROSS: In Section 12, it pertains to salmon only.

43

44 CHAIRMAN SHELDON KATCHATAG: It doesn't say salmon, it  
45 says fish. Oh, okay, that one. I'm sorry. I was looking at  
46 11. It says barter or sell fish.

47

48 MR. EDENSHAW: Mr. Chair?

49

CHAIRMAN SHELDON KATCHATAG: Mr. Edenshaw.

0085

1 MR. EDENSHAW: Yes. Cliff Edenshaw with Fish and  
2 Wildlife. I just want to reiterate what Rosa was saying. You  
3 know, there are four other coordinators, Barbara Armstrong,  
4 Helga Eakon and myself, Vince Mathews and Fred -- I always  
5 forget Fred's last name.

6  
7 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Clark.

8  
9 MR. EDENSHAW: But what these proposed -- you know, we  
10 really wanted the Council's, you know, just as Ms. Cross has  
11 stated, to look at these and make changes or word-smiting (ph),  
12 whatever you feel, you know, the Council needs to be done  
13 because we've met in Anchorage with the other coordinators and  
14 we have concerns with barter, as well as this no person may  
15 buy, sell or trade fish, you know, customary trade.

16  
17 The last thing we want is the office to sit there and  
18 put a dollar amount without consultation from the Councils or  
19 any of the villagers. And that's the way we -- Barbara, the  
20 rest of us when we're in Anchorage in our division, when we got  
21 together and met. We don't want individuals to make decisions  
22 without the Councils or their villagers. We thought Village  
23 IRA's should have input in regards to putting dollar amounts.

24  
25 Because in Southeast Alaska, where I come from in  
26 Sitka, we had two people busted for selling herring eggs on  
27 kelp. And herring eggs on kelp is a delicacy just as, you  
28 know, dog salmon eggs. And they took them to court. And  
29 that's a regulation I feel is very important. There are some  
30 things in here that are very important. If the Councils or  
31 some of these other people don't get to look at them, then  
32 they're just going to -- you know, if Rosa had a propo -- you  
33 know, if she had a time line, you could see where this is going  
34 in terms of between now and September. And things just get  
35 moving so quickly, you know.

36  
37 They told us one day you guys have until tomorrow to  
38 comment on these.

39  
40 MS. MEEHAN: Well, let me.....

41  
42 MR. EDENSHAW: And sometimes, you know, the time line,  
43 you know, it's important to follow these because before you  
44 know it it'll be September and the moratorium language is  
45 lifted and comments from the Regional Councils or any other  
46 concerned citizens in regards to these regulations and any --  
47 say you have -- and the time allotted will be lost, I feel.

48  
49 MS. MEEHAN: Let me make a few things really clear.



50 I've tried to mention it when I was talking about next steps,

0086

1 where we're going with this.

2

3 Right now you have a chance to look at it before we  
4 even send it to Washington. But we're planning on sending it  
5 to Washington the end of April. Then we do not have a time set  
6 for trying to publish a Proposed Rule in the Federal Register.  
7 Because of the language in our budget we can't plan that event.

8

9 As soon as the moratorium is lifted, then the idea is  
10 that this would go into the Federal Register as a Proposed  
11 Rule. At that time it gets published in the Federal Register,  
12 we would also notify you from our office that it's been  
13 published, make sure you have copies of it to review, and there  
14 would be a standard 60 day review period. And within that  
15 there will be more public meetings.

16

17 So I want to reiterate that this is an opportunity to  
18 have a very early review of something that's a draft, and there  
19 will be additional opportunities in the future. And they're  
20 going to be tied to when we are able to publish it in the  
21 Federal Register. But this is really important and that's, you  
22 know, why I'm trying to get through this and point the parts  
23 that I know are going to be -- directly effect you and make  
24 sure that you see it. Because I find it hard to read  
25 regulations and interpret them and to, you know, what it means  
26 on the ground.

27

28 MS. DEGNAN: Sheldon. Mr. Chairman.

29

30 CHAIRMAN SHELDON KATCHATAG: Ms. -- can you come up  
31 here and state your name for the record.

32

33 MS. DEGNAN: Welcome to Unalakleet. My name is Frances  
34 Degnan and I'm a lifelong resident of Unalakleet and a  
35 subsistence person. And I also serve on the Bering Straits  
36 Coastal Management Board. And it took us seven years to come  
37 out with a Coastal Management Plan following the same type of  
38 procedures that you are using today.

39

40 And we went to every village in the region to get their  
41 input, the wide public input, from each of the communities and  
42 it took us seven years of gathering information and analyzing  
43 it and bringing it back to the people to say is this -- did we  
44 understand you well enough that this is your -- what we take  
45 from you as being your position. And we gave them the widest  
46 comment time.

47

48 And we did a subsistence survey within the region and  
49 we found that the subsistence lifestyle is considered the

50 highest priority of this region. That its priority use number

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1 one of all land and water and air resources. And that the type  
2 of subsistence that is practiced by the local people is an  
3 indigenous, customary and traditional manner of life that knows  
4 no boundaries other than what is required by the community of  
5 people living together.

6  
7 You do not have regulations in terms of by centralized  
8 government, you do not need license, but you have a moral and a  
9 spiritual responsibility to your community of people. And they  
10 requested that we did not disclose all the areas where the  
11 resources were. And so we have respected that and many of the  
12 people are not anxious to disclose their usage of subsistence  
13 because the dominant society has a different culture and a  
14 different way of life.

15  
16 And so with my experience with this issue I say to you  
17 that whatever you decide to do, you must bring it back to each  
18 other individual villages in order to get their input because  
19 people -- it's a spiritual issue as well as keeping your body  
20 intact with your soul. And you cannot legislate this type of  
21 life.

22  
23 And with our experience in this region we have the  
24 commercial activity going on both in herring, it's a big  
25 business, salmon is a good business, but not as big as the  
26 herring, and the crab fishery, and then plus you have the outer  
27 limits fisheries that are multi-national corporate fishing.  
28 And so actually I see the biggest subsistence effort is not by  
29 the indigenous populations, but the outside influences that  
30 regulate our way of life.

31  
32 And the protest that I hear is that when you're really  
33 following a subsistence way of life, you do not number 1, have  
34 a boundary; number 2, you do not need a permit period time, you  
35 do not need a license. What you have is your ability to go out  
36 and harvest the renewable resources in their season and you do  
37 not deplete resources. There is no such thing as wanton waste  
38 or kill.

39  
40 And so I leave that for you to consider because I know  
41 many of the elders are very concerned about this. And they're  
42 concerned about the customary trade practices. All you need is  
43 one word in the regulation that will cut out subsistence as we  
44 know it. And I see by requiring that you have a valid hunting,  
45 fishing and trapping license, that's step number 1. Bag limits  
46 is step number 2. And then the people who are actually going  
47 to be doing the enforcement, they're not the ones that draw up  
48 the rules and regulations, they're the ones that enforce those.  
49 So they are not crafters of the regulation.



0088

1 And the way I see it, if due care is not given to this  
2 issue of subsistence by the Federal government or the state  
3 government, the local people will be disenfranchised of a right  
4 that they've enjoyed since time immemorial. I thank you.

5  
6 CHAIRMAN SHELDON KATCHATAG: Thank you, Frances. How  
7 much more have you got?

8  
9 MS. MEEHAN: I'm going to quit in two minutes.

10  
11 CHAIRMAN SHELDON KATCHATAG: Okay. We'll give you two  
12 minutes.

13  
14 MS. MEEHAN: Those were the -- the parts we covered --  
15 the parts that have broad implications. The remainder of this  
16 largely which starts well on page 20 and then on to that are  
17 the specific regulations for this area. By and large it's  
18 taken straight from the State regulations so that it would give  
19 us a starting point.

20  
21 The parts that are lined out are portions of the  
22 regulation that apply to areas that are not Federal waters.  
23 And so what we tried to leave in this are the areas that would  
24 apply within this program. And those are things that I will  
25 seek your help in looking at that carefully and making sure  
26 that we've identified correctly the areas that are on Federal  
27 public land that should be included in the program, as opposed  
28 to areas that are not on Federal lands and should not be  
29 included.

30  
31 CHAIRMAN SHELDON KATCHATAG: Just a comment, Rosa.  
32 These look suspiciously like the latest ADF&G subsistence  
33 fishery regs.

34  
35 MS. MEEHAN: They are.

36  
37 CHAIRMAN SHELDON KATCHATAG: Thank you.

38  
39 MS. MEEHAN: And I do want to make that clear. We  
40 specifically took the State regulations as a starting point.  
41 And it just gives us a place to work from. And so we will, you  
42 know, seek comments on that. It's the same thing we did with  
43 the terrestrial part of the program. We started with the State  
44 regulations, and they've obviously been modified since then  
45 through this Council process. So it's the same approach again.

46  
47 CHAIRMAN SHELDON KATCHATAG: Any comment or questions  
48 for Ms. Meehan? Hearing none, let's take about a 15 minute  
49 coffee break.



0089

1 (Off record)

2

3 (On record)

4

5 CHAIRMAN SHELDON KATCHATAG: The afternoon session back  
6 to order. We pretty much got through Rosa's fisheries update.  
7 Any questions for Rosa before we move on? Hearing none, I'll  
8 briefly go over the numbered 7(A)(2) item, the Joint Federal  
9 Subsistence Board Regional Council Chairs meeting.

10

11 I'd just like to say first of all that I would like to  
12 thank the National Park Service, not only the Staff, but also  
13 the Staff Committee member and the Park Service Board member  
14 for being very willing to listen to our concerns on the musk ox  
15 issue. And when we get into that I will clarify what I mean by  
16 that.

17

18 The Joint Federal Subsistence Board Regional Council  
19 meeting took place on the evening before the Board considered  
20 the Request for Reconsideration by the State on the musk ox  
21 hunt allocation in 22(D). And it was a very cordial meeting.  
22 The Board was willing to listen. And the night before the 10  
23 Regional Advisory Council chairs and/or their alternates had a  
24 meeting and it was the unanimous of all the Council chairs that  
25 we needed to organize. So we organized into what we have  
26 tentatively called a Council of Chairs, which are all the 10  
27 Regional Advisory Council chairs.

28

29 And I was elected Interim Chair of that. So I tease  
30 everybody I'm the Chair of Chairs. And Bill Thomas of Region I  
31 is the Vice-Chair of that organization and we're in the process  
32 of organizing and will be meeting again before the next Federal  
33 Subsistence Board meeting in late March. Early April.

34

35 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: April 7th.

36

37 CHAIRMAN SHELDON KATCHATAG: Yeah, they changed the  
38 early March because we didn't know that was Easter, so they  
39 pushed it back a week. But the 10 Regional Advisory Council  
40 chairs put forth the proposal which our Council had talked  
41 about in February -- I mean in October to restructure the  
42 Federal Subsistence Board to be made up of the 10 Regional  
43 Advisory Council chairs. And surprise of surprises, they were  
44 pretty receptive to it and made a few suggestions as to not  
45 only how that might be done, but some of their possible options  
46 to restructure the Board.

47

48 But the call for restructuring the Board is not with  
49 the Federal Subsistence Board. That is under the purview of



50 Secretaries of the Interior and Agriculture because they are

0090

1 the Title VIII designee under ANILCA.

2

3 We also pursued with the Federal Subsistence Board and  
4 put forth some of our draft arguments on why we need an Alaska  
5 Native Policy. And I reiterated some of those earlier today in  
6 other discussions. And I'm in the process right now, you can't  
7 see it because I can't see it, I've got my letter to the  
8 Secretary of the Interior and Agriculture on this disk and with  
9 the indulgence of Staff I would like to borrow somebody's  
10 laptop this evening so I could finish fleshing it out so that  
11 we can have that for everybody to see before we finish our  
12 session here.

13

14 I don't know if the other Regional Councils had that on  
15 their agendas and I'll defer to Helen if they discuss that at  
16 the Arctic Council meeting. Did they discuss anything about  
17 restructuring the Board or.....

18

19 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: They did, yeah. I was just trying  
20 to remember.

21

22 CHAIRMAN SHELDON KATCHATAG: The 10 chairs had asked  
23 that all of the 10 chairs bring it to their Councils for  
24 discussion.

25

26 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: They did discuss it. I don't know  
27 if they came to any -- like if they made a motion or not, I  
28 can't remember that, but I think they're all of course in favor  
29 of it.

30

31 CHAIRMAN SHELDON KATCHATAG: Thank you, Helen. And  
32 then we also brought up, and some of it is in the briefing  
33 material, although I haven't had a chance to look at our  
34 briefing booklet, but we also discussed the chairs' and the  
35 Councils' need for independent legal counsel. And basically we  
36 were told by the Federal Subsistence Board, if you need legal  
37 counsel, go see Alaska Legal Services or any of the other  
38 gratis legal service providers. If there is such an animal.

39

40 I'm trying to think of everything. But I would ask  
41 that we table this particular item until tomorrow when I can  
42 get copies of the letter that I would like the Council to look  
43 at. And if they wish to endorse it for further presentation to  
44 the Board, then we'll discuss that tomorrow when they can at  
45 least have it in front of them to read.

46

47 Also on there is -- I would move and ask unanimous  
48 consent for that. Hearing no objection we will defer or table  
49 Item 7(A)(2), the remainder until tomorrow until such a time as

50 we can get hard copies not only for the Council, but for

0091

1 everybody in attendance that would like a copy. Hearing no  
2 objection, so ordered.

3  
4 We now move on to Item 7(A)(3), Regional Council Update  
5 on Charter. Cliff.

6  
7 MR. EDENSHAW: Thank you, Mr Chair. Cliff Edenshaw  
8 with US Fish and Wildlife. Under Tab H -- no, make that F,  
9 there is just a one and two page synopsis on the results from  
10 this past fall's Regional Council meetings.

11  
12 CHAIRMAN SHELDON KATCHATAG: Tab I?

13  
14 MR. EDENSHAW: F. Tab F. So in October 1st and 2nd  
15 when we met in Nome, we addressed alternates and rural  
16 residency as a Council membership requirement. And on the  
17 table there is has the 10 region and whether each Regional  
18 Council reached a decision on the alternates. So pretty much  
19 all of them. Let me see, there were one, two, three, four,  
20 five. Five of the Councils said we'll have alternates and four  
21 said none, and Region 10 discussion with no action taken.

22  
23 CHAIRMAN SHELDON KATCHATAG: Tab F, I'm sorry.

24  
25 MR. EDENSHAW: Tab F, yes.

26  
27 CHAIRMAN SHELDON KATCHATAG: I thought you said H.

28  
29 MR. EDENSHAW: That's what I said initially and then I  
30 retracted.

31  
32 CHAIRMAN SHELDON KATCHATAG: And I looked at I and it  
33 was the wrong one.

34  
35 MR. EDENSHAW: But with the regional charters, on the  
36 bottom of the table that says, "any change to the existing  
37 membership structure, such as the addition of alternates, would  
38 be made through a Board-approved change in the existing  
39 charters." So those will not be revisited until 1998. And  
40 these recommendations will be presented to the Board at that  
41 time.

42  
43 And on the second page we address rural residency as a  
44 Council membership requirement. And if you'll look on the page  
45 after that, we just received a response January 21st from the  
46 Solicitor in D.C., regarding rural residency as a requirement.

47  
48 And basically on the table there, out of the 10  
49 Regional Councils, there were three regions that -- two said

50 that it was not an issue, said there weren't any concerns, and

0092

1 one region abstained from the issue seeing as the urgency is  
2 not required and the charters will not be revisited until 1998.

3  
4 But in the letter following there is a four page letter  
5 from the Solicitor. And basically it just -- they were asking  
6 for a legal opinion from D.C. regarding rural requirement as  
7 part of membership to serve on the Regional Council.

8  
9 And I haven't had a chance to read the four page  
10 letter, but I do understand from portions of what I've read  
11 that rural residency does not have to be a requirement to serve  
12 as a member on the Regional Council.

13  
14 And this is the response from a letter that was  
15 submitted by the Chair for the North Slope, Northwest Arctic  
16 and Seward Pen. So anyway, Sheldon, that was the response that  
17 we were waiting for. And, as I said, I included that in when  
18 we received the letter, and that was just prior to putting  
19 together these booklets. This is the response from Washington.

20  
21 CHAIRMAN SHELDON KATCHATAG: Oh, they got a different  
22 copy. I think we had gotten this sometime also. Or they just  
23 re-wrote their memo, huh? Didn't we get a memo like this  
24 originally from the Solicitor's office, Sandy?

25  
26 MR. RABINOWITCH: Maybe I can help clarify that. I  
27 think the memo that you saw previously was from the Anchorage  
28 Office of the Solicitor and this is from Washington.

29  
30 CHAIRMAN SHELDON KATCHATAG: All the way from D.C. So  
31 only when they shoot us down directly do they go to D.C. Any  
32 other questions or comments for Cliff regarding the Alternate  
33 Regional Council Charter Update and/or the letter from the  
34 Solicitor? So we won't be dealing with the charters again  
35 until '98?

36  
37 MR. EDENSHAW: That's correct.

38  
39 CHAIRMAN SHELDON KATCHATAG: Okay. Mr. Garnie.

40  
41 MR. GARNIE: Yeah. I get a little concerned with the  
42 qualifications being a rural resident. You know, does that  
43 mean like if you're there for 30 days you're a rural resident  
44 and you're qualified to serve on this Board?

45  
46 CHAIRMAN SHELDON KATCHATAG: That's another item that  
47 we had talked about at length before. I don't think the  
48 Federal program wanted to accept the State's 30 day residency.  
49 Part of the other qualifications, that is, that they're

50 knowledgeable of local conditions and that's another

0093

1 qualification under ANILCA. Let me see, I can read it to you.

2  
3 For the purpose of enabling rural residents who have  
4 personal knowledge of local conditions and requirements to have  
5 a meaningful role in the management of fish and wildlife and/or  
6 of subsistence uses. And as far as the Regional Advisory  
7 Council under Section 805A, it says each Regional Advisory  
8 Council shall be composed of residents of the region. And have  
9 the following authority. So they really don't have  
10 qualifications for.....

11  
12 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Mr. Chair.

13  
14 CHAIRMAN SHELDON KATCHATAG: Helen.

15  
16 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: In order to be able to hunt though  
17 under the subsistence regulations you have to have a license  
18 and you have to live somewhere for a year. I mean I don't know  
19 if that would -- whether you'd have to qualify as a hunter in  
20 order to be on the -- to be a rural resident.

21  
22 CHAIRMAN SHELDON KATCHATAG: It doesn't say here  
23 because all it says is, the Secretary shall establish a  
24 Regional Advisory Council in each subsistence resource region  
25 and then each Regional Advisory Council shall be composed of  
26 resident of the region. And then it outlines authority and it  
27 doesn't speak to the qualifications of the Council members.  
28 I don't know if that was an oversight of -- Sandy.

29  
30 MR. RABINOWITCH: Just to add, but in the Federal  
31 program regulations in Section 11, there's one more line that  
32 does speak to member qualifications. So it's in the Board  
33 regulations and it speaks about living in the region, as you've  
34 already said, and then further says, and be knowledgeable about  
35 the region and subsistence uses of the public lands therein.  
36 So I'm just reading from the regulation.

37  
38 CHAIRMAN SHELDON KATCHATAG: Yeah, it mentions that in  
39 the findings as -- as a finding, but it doesn't declare it as  
40 part of the policy of Title VIII. So if ANILCA does come up  
41 for amendment, that's what we're going to ask; qualifications  
42 for the Council members. All right. Helen.

43  
44 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: I just thought it was a point of  
45 interest that there's only one Council member who is not a  
46 rural resident. And I think the process by which we review  
47 applicants it probably would weed out anybody who -- if  
48 somebody hadn't lived there for 30 days, I mean obviously they  
49 (indiscernible). We've had enough applicants that we haven't



50 had to -- we can be pretty choosy about who gets.....

0094

1 CHAIRMAN SHELDON KATCHATAG: While we're on membership,  
2 I think we might as well discuss.....

3  
4 MR. EDENSHAW: I was just going to say that also.

5  
6 CHAIRMAN SHELDON KATCHATAG: Oh, I'm sorry.

7  
8 MR. EDENSHAW: I think in terms of the rural residency,  
9 just as Helen was stating, it's part of the process in our  
10 offices to -- I was speaking with Jake earlier. It's okay for  
11 the Regional Council to send recommendations in. You know, we  
12 receive applications for individuals who are applying for  
13 membership to the Regional Advisory Council. And it is okay  
14 for the Regional Council to recommend applicants or individuals  
15 for -- when the chairs come up for renomination.

16  
17 So in terms of the rural requirement, that can be all  
18 snuffed by the Regional Council making recommendations from any  
19 individual in a different part of the region here.

20  
21 CHAIRMAN SHELDON KATCHATAG: Oh, they left. I was  
22 going to have them people introduce themselves. Apparently  
23 they were in the wrong meeting.

24  
25 Any questions or comments for Cliff regarding the  
26 Regional Council Update on the Charter? We pretty much hashed  
27 that out at our last meeting.

28  
29 MR. EDENSHAW: I think just as you were going to  
30 suggest, if you don't mind we can continue onto the Regional  
31 Council membership. Is that what you were going to suggest?

32  
33 CHAIRMAN SHELDON KATCHATAG: Well, I was going to, but  
34 then I looked at it and again -- well, membership we can go  
35 ahead and discuss but I was wanting to move on to the Regional  
36 Council nominations.

37  
38 MR. EDENSHAW: I mean, yeah, that's what I.....

39  
40 CHAIRMAN SHELDON KATCHATAG: But that's not until  
41 tomorrow, and so I'd like to leave that there.

42  
43 MR. EDENSHAW: Okay.

44  
45 CHAIRMAN SHELDON KATCHATAG: What were you going to  
46 talk about? Just what I just said?

47  
48 MR. EDENSHAW: Yes. It's fairly short and brief.

49

CHAIRMAN SHELDON KATCHATAG: Okay. Thank you, Cliff.

0095

1 Okay. I think that we as a Council should discuss our annual  
2 report. I would like to get some clarification from the  
3 Council on what they feel should be included on there. I have  
4 some idea. I had expressed them earlier and I had asked Staff  
5 in one of our meetings that Staff develop some sort of a  
6 standardized report form regarding the resources in question.  
7 And I would like to -- I would have done that myself, but I  
8 don't have a good spreadsheet program on my computer. And it's  
9 a lot easier to do it with a spreadsheet than it is to try to  
10 do it with a word processor.

11  
12 But, in the past I had asked that part of the annual --  
13 I think as far as where we're concerned as Regional Managers  
14 making recommendations to the Board on resources, I think that  
15 it would probably be a good idea to be able to graph out the  
16 populations of the resources over which we have jurisdiction  
17 here, namely those listed in our regulation book. And I would  
18 like it to be graphed in such a way that you can see at least a  
19 five year population. You understand what I'm saying? So that  
20 you should be able to at a glance see which way the population  
21 trends are going. So that we know the numbers, the population  
22 health of the resource. And also whether or not they're going  
23 up or down.

24  
25 MS. DEWHURST: Yeah. Donna Dewhurst. You wanted a  
26 form then for that as a spreadsheet? Is it something for you  
27 to use or something -- I'm.....

28  
29 CHAIRMAN SHELDON KATCHATAG: I wanted it to be included  
30 in each year's annual report.

31  
32 MS. DEWHURST: Any new surveys, any new information or  
33 just.....

34  
35 CHAIRMAN SHELDON KATCHATAG: No. It could be  
36 extrapolations. That's basically what we've been getting on  
37 some of the populations; extrapolations of population based on  
38 the reproductive rate and so on.

39  
40 MS. DEWHURST: Yeah, the prob -- I'm still new and I'm  
41 still trying to figure out, you know, who does what and get the  
42 information. But I think one of the problems you're going to  
43 find is you'll always be a year to two years behind the current  
44 surveys it seems like. It seems like a lot of times people are  
45 reluctant to share their most recent data until they've done  
46 some analysis themselves. So anything we can get often is a  
47 year old.

48  
49 We're working on trying to improve with that, but it's

50 a biologist thing. When people go out and do a survey they

0096

1 don't tend to.....

2

3 CHAIRMAN SHELDON KATCHATAG: I'd be happy with year old  
4 data if we could get it on a yearly basis.

5

6 MS. DEWHURST: Yeah. And some of the problems too with  
7 me coming on, and I've been trying to just figure out what's  
8 out there, a lot of these species we don't have five years of  
9 good data on and the type data that you're talking about. But  
10 that's one of the things I've going to be working on over the  
11 next six months to a year, is trying to get exactly what you're  
12 talking about for my three areas. So that shouldn't be a  
13 problem.

14

15 But you're talking about you want it graphically, or  
16 you want it -- when you say a spreadsheet I think of a table.

17

18 CHAIRMAN SHELDON KATCHATAG: Well, you know, it's  
19 easier to make graphs if you have it on a spreadsheet.

20

21 MS. DEWHURST: Yeah. Right.

22

23 CHAIRMAN SHELDON KATCHATAG: And my knowledge of the  
24 spreadsheet program is you enter the data on a spreadsheet and  
25 say okay, computer, graph it for me. And, you know.....

26

27 MS. DEWHURST: Yeah. And that's not a problem for me.  
28 I can do that for you.

29

30 CHAIRMAN SHELDON KATCHATAG: That's not a problem,  
31 yeah.

32

33 MS. DEWHURST: But, yeah, we'll work on that.

34

35 CHAIRMAN SHELDON KATCHATAG: Right. You know.....

36

37 MS. DEWHURST: I can see what you're saying and I agree  
38 it would be nice to have that information that would include  
39 the current updates. So I'll see what I can do to work on  
40 that.

41

42 CHAIRMAN SHELDON KATCHATAG: And down the road I would  
43 also like to see companion subsistence uses.

44

45 MS. DEWHURST: Yeah. That's tougher information to  
46 get.

47

48 CHAIRMAN SHELDON KATCHATAG: You know, we have to look  
49 down the road somewhere and get to that point.



0097

1 MS. DEWHURST: Yeah. No, I agree. It's just that  
2 that's even harder to get.

3  
4 CHAIRMAN SHELDON KATCHATAG: And I think once we  
5 overcome the initial hurdle of making the effort to at least  
6 start the process then, you know, we won't get there. But if  
7 you look at our authority as Regional Advisory Councils, you  
8 know, they state that we have the authority to do quite a bit.  
9 And you assess not only the populations of the resources, you  
10 assess subsistence needs of the resources and you also -- you  
11 look at uses, you project needs and then you recommend  
12 strategies. Strategies and stuff, that's where we come in.

13  
14 But I think we should have a standard report form as  
15 far as the overall health of the resources upon which people  
16 are subsisting in the region.

17  
18 MS. DEWHURST: Well and I think too once we get started  
19 doing what you're talking about, the first thing it's going to  
20 do is identify the needs, where we have big gaps. And that is  
21 one of the first things I'm going to be working on. So  
22 hopefully by the next rounds of report I might be able to get  
23 something preliminary for you.

24  
25 CHAIRMAN SHELDON KATCHATAG: Okay. The easiest one I  
26 think to start with would be the musk ox because that's the one  
27 we had the most recent data on. Not only on the population  
28 itself, but also on harvest. So that would be a good one to  
29 start. And then I don't know -- how often do you do moose  
30 surveys, Charlie? I mean your department?

31  
32 MR. LEAN: Well, as a rotating survey been going on in  
33 Unit 22 and I think it's a five year rotation. So they do a  
34 sub-unit every year.

35  
36 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Try to.

37  
38 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Try to. It's so subject to  
39 weather in this area. Many, many years in a row they can't get  
40 certain areas done and they just keep it in the rotation and  
41 hopefully they get it again.

42  
43 CHAIRMAN SHELDON KATCHATAG: Well, that's basically  
44 where I think that we should be hitting as far as annual  
45 report. Right now as the statute is written it's an option,  
46 we're not mandated to provide this annual report. So but I  
47 would like -- as a Regional Advisory Council I think that to be  
48 responsible in the execution of our duties I think that we  
49 should at least make an effort to head in that direction. And



50 like I said, with all those wizards available in those

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1 spreadsheet and other programs, it shouldn't be that hard.  
2 It's just a matter of being able to plug in the numbers as we  
3 go along, whenever we do get the number.  
4

5 So that's where I as the chair of this Council think  
6 that we should have that kind of data to look at. And the main  
7 reason why I mentioned graphs is because it's a lot easier to  
8 look at not only trends, but also populations if you can have  
9 them graphed. Any other concerns that we should have in the  
10 annual report?  
11

12 If you want, I could read you what the statute says we  
13 can include in an annual report. Okay. Section 805(A)(3)(d),  
14 the preparation of an annual report to the Secretary which  
15 shall contain: 1) An identification of current and anticipated  
16 subsistence uses of fish and wildlife populations within the  
17 region. 2) An evaluation of current and anticipated  
18 subsistence needs for fish and wildlife populations within the  
19 region. 3) A recommended strategy for the management of fish  
20 and wildlife populations within the region to accommodate such  
21 subsistence uses and needs and, 4) recommendations concerning  
22 policies, standards, guidelines and regulations to implement  
23 the strategy.  
24

25 Mr. Garnie.  
26

27 MR. GARNIE: Yeah. Curious if it would be proper for  
28 us in our annual report to have all our recommendations and  
29 what was accepted and what wasn't accepted as far as our  
30 recommendations?  
31

32 CHAIRMAN SHELDON KATCHATAG: And I guess our  
33 coordinator can provide those to be included.  
34

35 MR. GARNIE: Make more work for you. Make sure you  
36 earn your money.  
37

38 MR. EDENSHAW: For recommendations in previous reports?  
39

40 CHAIRMAN SHELDON KATCHATAG: No. What he's saying is  
41 that in each cycle you should have -- we should have a list of  
42 all the proposals recommended at the initial meeting in the  
43 fall, a finalized and authorized recommendation to the Board in  
44 the spring meeting, and then a record of the Federal  
45 Subsistence Board's action with regard to those  
46 recommendations. Be just a matter of shuffling papers, I  
47 believe. Or you can make a synopsis. Got to keep our people  
48 busy.  
49

MR. GARNIE: Well, it'd just be good to see what we

0099

1 have accomplished. Or see how seriously we have been taken  
2 with our suggestions.

3

4 CHAIRMAN SHELDON KATCHATAG: I can understand that  
5 coming from Joe because he -- this is just his second meeting.  
6 And he has no record, just coming on new, of how effective our  
7 Council has been with the proposals that we work on at our  
8 meetings.

9

10 MS. MEEHAN: Mr. Chair. I just would like to remind  
11 you all that last year we did -- the Subsistence Board did  
12 provide a letter back to the Council at the end of the  
13 regulatory cycle that did just exactly that. And it went  
14 through all of the recommendations from the Council and lined  
15 out what the final outcome of all the actions were.

16

17 And in particular there were some requests that were  
18 not within the authority of the Federal Subsistence Board to  
19 deal with, and those requests were passed on to other agencies.  
20 So I just wanted to bring that to the surface again, that this  
21 information does come the other direction back. And it's  
22 specifically with the intent of being responsive to the Council  
23 as to how the process has carried through to the conclusion.

24

25 CHAIRMAN SHELDON KATCHATAG: You know one problem we  
26 have as Regional Advisory Councils is informing the people  
27 within the region as to what we've been doing and how the Board  
28 and the Council have been interacting and what's been the  
29 result of that interaction.

30

31 Would it be possible to work out with the Nugget and/or  
32 The Record, or both, some sort of corner for Federal  
33 Subsistence Management, maybe?

34

35 MS. MEEHAN: Yes, I think.....

36

37 CHAIRMAN SHELDON KATCHATAG: Or even a press release as  
38 to, you know.....

39

40 MS. MEEHAN: It's something that would be very  
41 straightforward to work out and I -- and we could certainly  
42 work with the Nugget or submit it to the Nugget as a press  
43 release at the conclusion of the spring Board meeting that  
44 would line out these are the proposals that came from this  
45 region and these were the actions that were taken, and do that  
46 in a press release.

47

48 And we could submit it not only to the Nome Nugget, but  
49 to the other -- the Bering Straits Record and some of other

50 papers.

00100

1           CHAIRMAN SHELDON KATCHATAG: Right.

2

3           MS. MEEHAN: In the local area.

4

5           CHAIRMAN SHELDON KATCHATAG: And because I know -- I  
6 don't know if you were at our May meeting in Nome, that one of  
7 the elders made the point that they didn't know what our  
8 Council had been doing and that they wanted, you know, some  
9 information back on how our Council was functioning. And I  
10 think that would be one method of doing it.

11

12           MS. MEEHAN: We certainly can follow-up on that. And  
13 the only caution I put on it is that the media, the various  
14 newspapers are not obligated to print stuff. We can provide it  
15 to them. Presumably we're all sufficiently all newsworthy and  
16 they'll be delighted to print it. But we certainly can do  
17 that. And at the same time provide you with copies of the  
18 press releases so that you could distribute them as you're able  
19 to.

20

21           MS. SEAMON: I personally would be very happy to print  
22 it.

23

24           CHAIRMAN SHELDON KATCHATAG: Thank you, Leslie.  
25 Appreciate it. Sandy. Mr. Rabinowitch.

26

27           MR. RABINOWITCH: Along the same -- or exactly the same  
28 lines and the point that Joe Garnie brings up, if I could point  
29 out that under Tab E is a network. On page 3, which is -- that  
30 have the report on the Chairmen's meeting that you attended in  
31 November, and we've already I think touched on this, but on  
32 page 3 in the fourth little paragraph this point was noted by  
33 all the Chairmen, which is there should be a mechanism for  
34 keeping track of Board actions on the Regional Council basis  
35 and distribute this information to all the regions.

36

37           And being at that meeting when this was spoken about,  
38 my recollection is that one of the things that was talked about  
39 was to take a table that is already done each and every year,  
40 in fact I think by Bill Knauers (ph), the fellow that usually  
41 does it, which is very much along the lines of what I hear  
42 Sheldon asking for, which is can we get a simple presentation.  
43 You know, what happened with the proposals from -- from the  
44 Board.

45

46           And so you just go right across one line and you see  
47 that the Board voted in favor, either for it or against it, or  
48 maybe for it but make some modifications. Very easy to read.  
49 It's already done. And I think the trick is to get it back out  
to you all. I just shared that as a little more memory, so I

50 think the work is all being done. I think it's a matter of

00101

1 getting it back.

2

3 CHAIRMAN SHELDON KATCHATAG: Well, I'm glad the work's  
4 being done.

5

6 MR. RABINOWITCH: I think I see the work being done,  
7 but the trick is to get it back to you all.

8

9 MS. MEEHAN: Well, Sandy, it does get back.

10

11 MR. RABINOWITCH: Pardon me?

12

13 MS. MEEHAN: We do provide that information back.

14

15 MR. RABINOWITCH: Your know, that's right.

16

17 MS. MEEHAN: Yeah. In the letter. And what the  
18 suggestion is we'll do it out to the media and so that it's in  
19 a more accessible form, though.

20

21 MR. RABINOWITCH: Right. But I.....

22

23 MS. MEEHAN: No, I agree with you, that table is a good  
24 way to get it.

25

26 CHAIRMAN SHELDON KATCHATAG: Grace.

27

28 MS. CROSS: Right here on your draft under subsist  
29 issues which concern Seward Peninsula which concern Seward  
30 Peninsula Regional Advisory Council.

31

32 CHAIRMAN SHELDON KATCHATAG: What tab are you on?

33

34 MS. CROSS: Under G. Aren't we discussing your draft  
35 of the annual report?

36

37 CHAIRMAN SHELDON KATCHATAG: Yes.

38

39 MS. CROSS: Tab G.

40

41 CHAIRMAN SHELDON KATCHATAG: Tab C.

42

43 MS. CROSS: G.

44

45 CHAIRMAN SHELDON KATCHATAG: G as in golf.

46

47 MS. CROSS: As in Grace.

48

49 CHAIRMAN SHELDON KATCHATAG: As in Grace. I'm sorry.





00102

1 MS. CROSS: And the second page is subsistence issues  
2 which concern the Seward Peninsula Subsistence Regional  
3 Advisory Council are: And there are three things there. Can  
4 we add.....

5  
6 CHAIRMAN SHELDON KATCHATAG: We can add whatever the  
7 Council feels like adding.

8  
9 MS. CROSS: .....that the Council elected to deal with  
10 both fish and wildlife issues?

11  
12 CHAIRMAN SHELDON KATCHATAG: Sure.

13  
14 MS. CROSS: And the recommendation that fish -- Federal  
15 Subsistence Board be comprised of 10 Regional Council chairs.

16  
17 CHAIRMAN SHELDON KATCHATAG: Okay.

18  
19 MS. CROSS: There was a motion that was made and then  
20 this was one of the major concerns that we had and we passed it  
21 unanimously.

22  
23 CHAIRMAN SHELDON KATCHATAG: Are you writing these  
24 down, Cliff?

25  
26 MR. EDENSHAW: Um-hum.

27  
28 CHAIRMAN SHELDON KATCHATAG: Okay. Any other item?

29  
30 MS. CROSS: No.

31  
32 CHAIRMAN SHELDON KATCHATAG: Will you move to that  
33 effect?

34  
35 MS. CROSS: I move that we add to the annual  
36 report.....

37  
38 CHAIRMAN SHELDON KATCHATAG: The draft annual report.

39  
40 MS. CROSS: The draft annual report the section where  
41 we as a Council had elected to include fisheries within our  
42 Regional Council and that we had voted to -- what happened to  
43 it now -- to change the Federal Subsistence Board to 10  
44 Regional chairs.

45  
46 CHAIRMAN SHELDON KATCHATAG: We have a motion before us  
47 to add to this draft annual report listed under Tab G that we  
48 voted unanimously to include subsistence fisheries in our  
49 responsibilities as the Regional Advisory Council. And to also

50 add that we also voted unanimously to support the 10 Regional

00103

1 Advisory Council chairs in their efforts to restructure the  
2 Federal Subsistence Board to be made up of the 10 Regional  
3 Advisory Council chairs. We have a motion before us. Do I  
4 hear a second?

5  
6 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Second.

7  
8 CHAIRMAN SHELDON KATCHATAG: Seconded. Discussion?

9  
10 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Question.

11  
12 CHAIRMAN SHELDON KATCHATAG: Question's been called.  
13 All those in favor, signify by saying aye?

14  
15 IN UNISON: Aye.

16  
17 CHAIRMAN SHELDON KATCHATAG: All those opposed?

18  
19 (On opposing responses)

20  
21 CHAIRMAN SHELDON KATCHATAG: Motion passes unanimously  
22 with two excused and one resignation. Oh, for the record I  
23 would also move and ask unanimous consent that we need to have  
24 a two year appointment to fill Abraham Anasogak's vacated seat.  
25 Hearing no objection, so ordered. That would be item number 7  
26 -- no, six.

27  
28 And for the record, seeing as how that particular seat  
29 since the inception of this organization was filled by a Koyuk  
30 resident I would move and ask unanimous consent that Koyuk be  
31 asked for a recommendation as to who should fill Abraham  
32 Anasogak's seat, even though we don't have representational  
33 requirement in our Council system. Hearing no objection, so  
34 ordered.

35  
36 And just as a matter of courtesy I would move and ask  
37 unanimous consent that we ask the Koyuk IRA for a  
38 recommendation, complying with the government to government  
39 relationship. Hearing no objection, so ordered.

40  
41 Any further items that we should include in our annual  
42 report?

43  
44 MR. EDENSHAW: Excuse me, Mr. Chair.

45  
46 CHAIRMAN SHELDON KATCHATAG: Mr. Edenshaw.

47  
48 MR. EDENSHAW: I have a couple of comments in regards  
49 to the annual report. This is a draft and what I'd like -- I

50 know for the majority of you I have fax numbers for the

00104

1 majority of you, but what I'd like is because prior to faxing  
2 the draft report to Sheldon I faxed copies to the Council  
3 members who I had fax numbers for. And since I've done that  
4 I've learned a great deal about calling, you know, when we were  
5 making travel arrangements and faxing itineraries and sending  
6 information to other Council members.

7  
8 But I would really like it if --- I think if I look at  
9 the beginning of the booklet I don't have -- well, I have one  
10 for Edgar now, but for Ted, Ted's not here, for your uncle, I  
11 don't have a -- well, there's a fax for him. Yeah, there's one  
12 for him. And Joe, I now have a fax number for Joe.

13  
14 But when I'm putting together the annual report or any  
15 other information, I think it's imperative for me to have that  
16 information so that all the Council members can have access to  
17 the information that I'm putting up on their behalf so they can  
18 comment on it and make any changes and fax those back to me.  
19 Because my experience in the short time I've been doing this is  
20 -- an example with the Kodiak-Aleutians, we sent down an annual  
21 report and we received input back from various other agencies  
22 who responded to these letters that Rosa mentions.

23  
24 And I know I just think it'd make my job a lot easier  
25 if I had that information so that all of you guys and Grace  
26 have that so that you can make comments or changes. Because  
27 when we come to the Regional Council meeting, if Grace or Joe  
28 tell me that they haven't had a chance to review the materials,  
29 it's because I haven't been able to get a fax number or else  
30 get the information to them so that they can do that because  
31 (a) I certainly don't want to be put on the spot. And, first  
32 and foremost, I'd rather have the information to the Council  
33 members so that they can review those ahead of time.

34  
35 And getting back to the annual report, I just wanted to  
36 use an example, and I believe the information that Sheldon is  
37 requesting, you know, a spreadsheet of resources of the region.  
38 I think one question though you know I have in regards to that  
39 is you have marine mammals up here and you have water fowl and  
40 I just know from the last annual report that Kodiak-Aleutians  
41 submitted, as it says in this November 19th and Joint Chairs  
42 Report, that some of these species are out of the jurisdiction  
43 of the Board, but I still think that those should be included  
44 because when our office send out letters to National Marine  
45 Fisheries and migratory birds, we receive responses back.

46  
47 Because down in Kodiak and the Aleutians they have not  
48 been able to hunt stellar sea lions for a number of years, but  
49 the National Marine Fisheries sent us a letter to the office

50 stating the health of the population. And another example in

00105

1 Southeast Alaska, they're embarking on a mission to try and  
2 collect traditional environmental knowledge.

3  
4 And I heard Mr. Degnan this morning talk about  
5 traditional knowledge and I'm not sure where Kawerak and  
6 Maniilaq is in this area. But in terms of providing  
7 information like this in their annual report and being able to  
8 use it, I think it would be a big plus, but I've heard, you  
9 know, Ms. Degnan testify this afternoon that individuals are  
10 reluctant to tell where they go. Because when I was working  
11 with the Forest Service in Southeast Alaska they had this big  
12 trucks program, Tongass Resource Use Cooperative survey and I  
13 know that I'm not going to go out there and tell someone where  
14 I'm going, whether I'm hunting or fishing.

15  
16 But I believe it's an opportunity for the Council, you  
17 know, with Kawerak or Maniilaq for them to gather that  
18 information and really share it, you know, with Sheldon. You  
19 know if we're going to go ahead and collect and put into a  
20 spreadsheet all the resources and be able to look at whether it  
21 be a five year or a 10 year cycle, and look at what the, you  
22 know, forecasting populations or health of the species, then I  
23 think that's a good step to go in.

24  
25 Because I agree with you Sheldon that this annual  
26 report for me, it's been like a headache because if I'm going  
27 to send something in to the Board, I want something that's  
28 going to have a lot of weight, that has some strong facts and  
29 something that's going to elicit some reaction and action.

30  
31 So, let me see, so before I leave or before we get  
32 back, I just want to make sure that I have fax numbers for the  
33 Council because after I mailed out this last annual report I  
34 wasn't able to get a hold of some of the Council members. So  
35 as long as I have correct phone numbers, because I called one,  
36 I think that was -- well, Abraham, he moved, that's why I found  
37 out later that his phone was disconnected. But, you know, I  
38 just need to be assured that there is, you know, updated phone  
39 numbers and fax numbers so I can get the information to you  
40 when we start putting together such as the annual report or any  
41 other information that the Council requests.

42  
43 CHAIRMAN SHELDON KATCHATAG: Did you ever get a fax  
44 number for Ted Katcheak?

45  
46 MR. EDENSHAW: No.

47  
48 CHAIRMAN SHELDON KATCHATAG: Okay.

49



MR. EDENSHAW: I wasn't able to contact him prior to

00106

1 the meeting starting, you know, when we started putting  
2 together tribal itineraries. And I hadn't been able to talk to  
3 him at all until -- with the exception of speaking with you on  
4 the phone when you shared with me that Ted was excused. So I  
5 hadn't been able to get a hold of him or reach him.

6  
7 CHAIRMAN SHELDON KATCHATAG: Edgar, do you have a fax  
8 number?

9  
10 MR. NINGEULOOK: Yes, I do. In fact I put it on the  
11 paper so that I could submit it to Clifford.

12  
13 CHAIRMAN SHELDON KATCHATAG: Okay. Joe Garnie, you've  
14 got a fax number where you can get faxed to?

15  
16 MR. GARNIE: I think he knows.

17  
18 CHAIRMAN SHELDON KATCHATAG: Okay. Well, you guys can  
19 coordinate with Cliff.

20  
21 MR. GARNIE: Yeah, he's got it. Here it is right here.

22  
23 CHAIRMAN SHELDON KATCHATAG: Yeah, I agree with you,  
24 Cliff. Before I got the Microsoft Windows Program I had on the  
25 Word Perfect 5.1, I had went ahead and listed all the resources  
26 like you said. All the resources that I am aware of that  
27 people subsist on within the region, regardless of whether or  
28 not we have jurisdiction, just to get them on the record that  
29 they are subsistence resources, be they marine mammals or  
30 migratory birds or whatever. So, okay.

31  
32 But when I got the Microsoft Word -- I mean the  
33 Microsoft Windows Program I figured it'd be in my best interest  
34 to go ahead and clear my hard disk so that I could have a clean  
35 hard disk to put the Windows program on and then minimize  
36 glitches. But since then I have not been able -- I had listed  
37 everything under the Word Perfect and I have yet to get that  
38 transferred out of back-up files back into the Word Perfect  
39 Program on Windows because it was originally just a basic DOS  
40 Word Perfect Program.

41  
42 So when I do get that out I'll fax it down to you. But  
43 it's a pretty comprehensive list, lists all the marine mammals,  
44 all the fish, all the migratory birds and all the land mammals  
45 and also trapping resources. So not only that, but also greens  
46 and berries too. So it's a pretty comprehensive list. I was  
47 amazed, the longer I sat there I was going page after page.  
48 But I would like that included in at least one annual report so  
49 that we do have it in the public record. Anything else?



00107

1 If there is nothing else to add the Chair would  
2 entertain a motion that we adopt our draft annual report, or  
3 final recommendation to the Federal Subsistence Board.

4  
5 MR. GARNIE: So moved.

6  
7 CHAIRMAN SHELDON KATCHATAG: Do I hear a second?

8  
9 MR. NINGEULOOK: Second the motion.

10  
11 CHAIRMAN SHELDON KATCHATAG: Second. Discussion?

12  
13 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Question.

14  
15 CHAIRMAN SHELDON KATCHATAG: The question's been  
16 called. All those in favor of the draft annual report as  
17 amended, signify by saying aye.

18  
19 IN UNISON: Aye.

20  
21 CHAIRMAN SHELDON KATCHATAG: All those opposed, nay.

22  
23 (No opposing responses)

24  
25 CHAIRMAN SHELDON KATCHATAG: Motion passes unanimously.  
26 I think rather than going on in our agenda we'll just go ahead  
27 and break and con.....

28  
29 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Oh, Mr. Chairman.

30  
31 CHAIRMAN SHELDON KATCHATAG: Ms. Armstrong.

32  
33 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: BLM is leaving the.....

34  
35 CHAIRMAN SHELDON KATCHATAG: I'm sorry. Right. Here I  
36 had it written down and it just totally escaped me. We've got  
37 enough time to take care of Item 8(C)(2) as originally amended.  
38 So we will now hear from BLM, Northern and Southern District.  
39 Thank you, Helen, I appreciate you keeping me on the straight  
40 and narrow.

41  
42 MS. MORKILL: Anne Morkill with the Bureau of Land  
43 Management. And I appreciate you giving us an opportunity to  
44 speak.

45  
46 Just again to reiterate, the Northern District, which  
47 is the office I work for out of Fairbanks, covers most of Game  
48 Management Unit 22, with the exception of the Unalakleet area  
49 and south. And that area is managed out of the Anchorage

50 District Office, which Jeff Denton will address.

00108

1           In addition to the yellow lands that you see up on the  
2 maps which are considered Federal public lands under the  
3 Subsistence Management Program, there's also some large blocks  
4 that don't show up that are selected by the State of Alaska or  
5 by the Native Regional and Village Corporations that are also  
6 under BLM management authority.

7  
8           So we have a number of responsibilities in addition to  
9 subsistence management along the Seward Peninsula. And also  
10 for your information we do have a one person field office in  
11 Nome, and that's handled by Norm Messenger. So if there's any  
12 issues that you need to voice for BLM, Norm is a good channel  
13 to get those back to me in Fairbanks.

14  
15           A couple of things I've got. I just very briefly wrote  
16 up a page summary of some of the projects that we're doing out  
17 on the Seward Peninsula that would be of interest to the  
18 Council. I'll just pass these around. Two of these projects  
19 are actually occurring just outside this region in the Buckland  
20 River Valley, but they are I believe of interest to this region  
21 because they address caribou and reindeer.

22  
23           And the first one, the Western Arctic Caribou Herd  
24 Habitat Monitoring Program, back in the early 1980's when there  
25 was a proposal to graze reindeer in this area, there was also a  
26 lot of caribou, and so the BLM did some preliminary studies  
27 looking at vegetation in those areas. And they laid out  
28 permanent transects where they could determine what kind of  
29 vegetation was in that area.

30  
31           We went back in 1995 and again in 1996, 14 years later,  
32 and given the nearly quadruple size of the Western Arctic  
33 caribou herd to a look at what the vegetation was like,  
34 particularly the lichen cover and just in summary we found a  
35 decline in the percent lichen cover in those -- along those  
36 transects, indicating heavy use by caribou either from eating  
37 the lichen or from trampling the lichen.

38  
39           And within that same area there was a small tundra fire  
40 in 1981, and we looked at that again in 1985 in Ulukluk Creek,  
41 which is a tributary to the west fork of the Buckland River and  
42 confirmed what has been shown in other studies that lichen  
43 takes a long time to recover after a fire. And given that  
44 lichen is an important resource for caribou and reindeer, we  
45 wanted to document these types of trends and be able to address  
46 this in our fire management planning in the future.

47  
48           The third thing is a project that deals with the Seward  
49 Peninsula musk ox. BLM is a cooperator on the Cooperative

50 Management Plan and we've participated in the bi-annual census

00109

1 every other year. And our plans for this coming summer is to  
2 collect information on the age and sex composition of groups in  
3 Unit 22(D). And that'll supplement -- you know, right now  
4 we've got numbers of musk ox in those areas and the information  
5 we would like to collect this summer will tell us what age  
6 those musk ox are, what their calf production is and how many  
7 bulls versus cows there are.

8  
9 And just finally that trying to use some of this  
10 information, to make it available to both biologists and users  
11 by using a computerized geographic information system, and we  
12 have a lot of information on topography and vegetation, land  
13 status and just take a look at which musk ox are doing out in  
14 the Seward Peninsula relative to those features and provide  
15 that information in a colorful graph, so to speak, at future  
16 meetings.

17  
18 And that's all I've got for the Northern District. One  
19 final note regarding BLM statewide, I don't know if this was  
20 presented at any previous Council meetings, but in the last  
21 year the BLM Alaska has a Native Liaison or a Native Issues  
22 Coordinator. And she is officed in the Anchorage, Alaska,  
23 state office. And her name is Brenda TakesHorse. And she  
24 addresses.....

25  
26 CHAIRMAN SHELDON KATCHATAG: Brenda who?

27  
28 MS. MORKILL: TakesHorse.

29  
30 MR. BUCK: Is here name in your report?

31  
32 MS. MORKILL: Excuse me? No, her name is not there. I  
33 have her name. TakesHorse, it's capital.....

34  
35 CHAIRMAN SHELDON KATCHATAG: TakesHorse?

36  
37 MS. MORKILL: Yes. It's one word but with T-a-k-e-s-H-  
38 o-r-s-e.

39  
40 CHAIRMAN SHELDON KATCHATAG: She must be a Lower 48  
41 Indian, or married to one?

42  
43 MS. CROSS: Would you please spell that again?

44  
45 MS. MORKILL: It's capital T-a-k-e-s-H-o-r-s-e.

46  
47 MS. CROSS: TakesHorse. Oh, okay.

48  
49 MS. MORKILL: I think she is -- yeah. And so she's



50 available to address any issues that you might forward to her.

00110

1 And that's not only subsistence, but any issues regarding  
2 Native allotments or Native conveyances.

3  
4 CHAIRMAN SHELDON KATCHATAG: Where do we get a hold of  
5 her?

6  
7 MS. MORKILL: She's in the Anchorage office and her  
8 telephone number is 271-3547. And I think she is trying to get  
9 around to a number of different forums to meet local groups.  
10 And try to encourage her to try to make some Council meetings  
11 or maybe some Federal Subsistence Board meetings.

12  
13 CHAIRMAN SHELDON KATCHATAG: I assume that she's in  
14 charge of the BLM Alaska Native Policy program too?

15  
16 MS. MORKILL: She'd be a good person to ask. That's why  
17 I thought of bringing her up when you asked that earlier. I  
18 don't have any further.....

19  
20 MS. CROSS: Does she have a toll free number?

21  
22 MS. MORKILL: I don't know if we have a toll free  
23 number in our State office. I don't know that.

24  
25 CHAIRMAN SHELDON KATCHATAG: I have a number of  
26 comments and concerns regarding your report.

27  
28 MS. MORKILL: Okay.

29  
30 CHAIRMAN SHELDON KATCHATAG: And Item Number 1, you're  
31 doing this survey in the Nulato Hills area?

32  
33 MS. MORKILL: Yes. Um-hum. Initially it was started  
34 in the Buckland River Valley on BLM lands and we're extending  
35 that into the areas further south as the caribou herd has moved  
36 south. So up on Travers (ph) Peak and Tubtulik Ridge, upper  
37 Inlitalik River, upper Imgalik River, some of the higher  
38 country where they've found concentrations.

39  
40 CHAIRMAN SHELDON KATCHATAG: I know this is the  
41 Southern District, but are there any plans to do the  
42 Unalakleet? No?

43  
44 MR. DENTON: Not at this time.

45  
46 CHAIRMAN SHELDON KATCHATAG: Okay. The reason I asked  
47 is we used to have reindeer herds out of Unalakleet and, you  
48 know, they used to concentrate that Unalakleet River Drainage.  
49 And reindeer go and then it's only been since '85 or so that

50 the caribou have starting migrating south. And I know that

00111

1 there was a lot of good habitats out in Unalakleet.

2

3 MR. DENTON: Yes. I'll get into that later.

4

5 CHAIRMAN SHELDON KATCHATAG: Okay. The next question I  
6 have with regard to Number 1 is this year, and, Charlie, you  
7 can correct me if I'm wrong, some 90,000 caribou headed west on  
8 the Seward Peninsula and I was wondering if you were planning  
9 on doing any of that kind of thing over there?

10

11 MS. MORKILL: Actually, yes. They don't plan on  
12 putting any permanent transects on that I believe but they were  
13 going to spend a couple of days in the Fish River area and take  
14 a look at what the caribou have been doing to the resources.

15

16 CHAIRMAN SHELDON KATCHATAG: And another thing in  
17 regard to that, I don't know if you're aware, but a few years  
18 back the Soil Conservation Service did an extensive GIS mapping  
19 of the entire Seward Peninsula and I was wondering if you have  
20 that available as far as resource.

21

22 MS. MORKILL: We do. In fact, under the musk ox  
23 project when I talk about ecological sites, that's the database  
24 that we're using and it's an excellent resource.

25

26 CHAIRMAN SHELDON KATCHATAG: Yeah. I know it's a full  
27 color. I saw a copy in Elim at the IRA office and it's a full  
28 color, huge, beautiful map.

29

30 MS. MORKILL: In fact, for the caribou project they've  
31 used that information to help at their desks pick sample sites  
32 so they can go field checking.

33

34 CHAIRMAN SHELDON KATCHATAG: Oh, good. Do you have any  
35 information on how much reindeer we lost this year to the  
36 caribou?

37

38 MS. MORKILL: No. I think probably we won't know until  
39 they start moving back north again. I know talking with Peter  
40 Bente from Fish and Game out of Nome, he said they continue to  
41 kind of flux back and forth, the caribou do, and so I think  
42 there's still a potential. And some of the herders -- I heard  
43 like in Deering they're holding really close to the coast.

44

45 CHAIRMAN SHELDON KATCHATAG: Yeah. I was surprised to  
46 hear that -- to find out that the half of the herd that Tom  
47 Gray lost ended up over in Deering and they're holding them for  
48 him over there until such time as he can herd them back.

49

MS. MORKILL: That's good they caught them. They

00112

1 probably won't be able to assess that until the caribou leave,  
2 if they leave.

3

4 CHAIRMAN SHELDON KATCHATAG: Mr. Garnie.

5

6 MR. GARNIE: That is a really nice survey here on the  
7 decline of lichen here, 33.3 percent. And what do you estimate  
8 it takes, like up to 90 years for it to grow back?

9

10 MS. MORKILL: Yeah, several studies it's anywhere from  
11 50 to a hundred years.

12

13 MR. GARNIE: You know, getting back to the musk ox,  
14 this is what I was really concerned about in a meeting in Nome  
15 we had, was I'd sure like to see a study like this done on  
16 their foraging habits because you just -- it's slightly  
17 alarming as to why they have become extinct.

18

19 And a real big concern with the village I'm from,  
20 Teller, is a lot of the elders are really concerned that they  
21 come in and stay around fish camps and at prime picking places  
22 and berry places. And they stay in one area for so long that  
23 like you say here, from trampling or from grazing, they just  
24 trample it up to where it never grows back again. And it is  
25 private land they're on. And they can no longer harvest what  
26 they used to harvest there before.

27

28 And this is one of our big reasons for wanting to cap  
29 the herd. But this is one real big concern with the village  
30 I'm from, is how much are they actually grazing and how long  
31 does it take to rehabilitate, which I think is almost forever  
32 because they stay in one area for so many months. So I'd like  
33 to see a study like this done, you know.

34

35 MS. MORKILL: One thing that I foresee having an  
36 opportunity to do when we get on the ground to look at the musk  
37 ox groups in 22(D), is while we're on the ground taking a look  
38 at the vegetation in that area and kind of getting some ideas  
39 of where we want to go in the future on foraging studies, there  
40 -- also I do have a progress from a study that's done out of  
41 Deering. Some of you may have picked this up last week at the  
42 musk ox meeting, but I have more copies on a project with the  
43 University of Alaska-Fairbanks, the National Park Service and  
44 Fish and Game, with some minor support from BLM on the  
45 interactions between musk ox and reindeer on the Seward  
46 Peninsula.

47

48 And the study has been working with Herbie Carmens'  
49 (ph) herd out of Deering, is that right, and taking a look at

50 what the reindeer are eating and what the musk ox are eating

00113

1 and trying to compare those. And so far she's found that  
2 haven't actually physically been in the same place, but in fact  
3 they are eating very similar foods.

4  
5 So there are some behavioral interactions that keep  
6 them in their own little spaces and but they have similar food  
7 items that they like. So those are preliminary findings, but  
8 that's an area we're looking at and whether or not that applies  
9 to the Teller area.....

10  
11 MR. GARNIE: Yeah, they also compete with us for some  
12 grains for the human.

13  
14 MS. MORKILL: Yeah, that's true too. We should be able  
15 to take that up too I think as she -- what she finds in the  
16 vegetation.

17  
18 CHAIRMAN SHELDON KATCHATAG: One question in relation  
19 to that. I know Elmer had told me that he provided some  
20 stomach samples to somebody and I was wondering if you were in  
21 on that?

22  
23 MS. MORKILL: Yeah. In fact I got the stomach  
24 contacts. There's a couple of labs outside that do that type  
25 of analysis where they hire a student that picks through all of  
26 that. And we intend to send that off and have them take a look  
27 at that. And we'll -- in fact, we'll present a report back to  
28 Elmer and Council if you prefer.

29  
30 CHAIRMAN SHELDON KATCHATAG: That'll be great.

31  
32 MS. MORKILL: Okay.

33  
34 CHAIRMAN SHELDON KATCHATAG: I know that more than one  
35 of our Council members has an expressed concern about possible  
36 competition for resource between musk ox and caribou and  
37 reindeer. Well, also competition with the moose.

38  
39 MS. MORKILL: Right.

40  
41 CHAIRMAN SHELDON KATCHATAG: Joe.

42  
43 MR. GARNIE: Well, I'm just kind of worried about the  
44 caribou. We're really excited about seeing the caribou move  
45 back in. And it's really going to provide us with a real good  
46 food source if they do come back in with the numbers that  
47 they're showing.

48  
49 And I was a little slightly concerned with the reindeer



50 herders driving them out like, sort of. I'm not real crazy

00114

1 about seeing it happen. You know, I know we've all got family  
2 and people that we're related to that own reindeer, but we've  
3 got to kind of face facts. The price of reindeer is just awful  
4 steep for those that don't own a reindeer herd and we'd rather  
5 see the caribou in here. And I don't really appreciate seeing  
6 them getting chased all over and by reindeer herders.

7  
8 MS. MORKILL: It'll be interesting to see what happens  
9 this next winter, if they have started a new pattern. That's  
10 all I have.

11  
12 CHAIRMAN SHELDON KATCHATAG: Any questions for Anne?  
13 Thank you, Ms. Morkill. Mr. Denton.

14  
15 MR. DENTON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My name is Jeff  
16 Denton, I'm a Subsistence Specialist and Wildlife Biologist in  
17 Anchorage for BLM. And our lands, as Anne had eluded to, is  
18 basically the Federal public lands in your Council area here,  
19 basically are the drainages of the Unalakleet River. We do  
20 have large segments of State selected lands in the Golsovia  
21 Drainage, but those aren't Federal public lands at this time  
22 until either the State relinquishes them back to us or they're  
23 conveyed to the State.

24  
25 And I guess basically the things that we have going on,  
26 as you know BLM land status is ever changing. This is the  
27 first year it's been relatively stable. We haven't had a large  
28 number of conveyances or large acreage of land change hands or  
29 come back to BLM this year. So what's on the map here is the  
30 first year this map has been stable probably for since this  
31 Council has been meeting actually. And so far as land status,  
32 for once it's stable. But how long that'll be, we don't know.

33  
34 As far as BLM activities and projects, we're engaged  
35 and have been some time in applying to the State of Alaska for  
36 an in-stream flow reservation on the Unalakleet Wild and Scenic  
37 River Portion. That's primarily to protect in the long term  
38 the fisheries values and fisheries habitats up there to insure  
39 in the very long term that the proper flows will always be  
40 available to keep the fishery intact.

41  
42 There is a large scale project that we're starting this  
43 year. It's a two year project. The land that Anne was talking  
44 about will be done next year. We're doing what we call land  
45 cover mapping, utilizing satellite imagery. All the Unalakleet  
46 Drainage will be done this year. The Golsovia, the Anvik, the  
47 Innoko, the bottom lands of the Yukon, the Iditarod. It's a  
48 fairly large region that we're going to be doing this work in,  
49 of which the Unalakleet Drainage is probably a small part of

50 the project this year. Next year we'll do the northern stuff

00115

1 north of the Unalakleet Drainage in the Nulato Hills. And I  
2 think Anne's district will pick up that chore next year and  
3 complete that.

4  
5 And the reason for that is there's a statewide push to  
6 get some common database for land cover for BLM lands, as well  
7 as other agency lands for vegetation. And a lot of this has to  
8 do with global change. Over the next 50 years, if we do this  
9 again in 50 years, we might find that there's been massive  
10 changes in vege-types due to global warming as part of this  
11 long term monitoring process.

12  
13 The Arctic environments are going to be one of the most  
14 sensitive and the first to change. And there may be some, you  
15 know, very serious consequences to global warming in arctic  
16 environments.

17  
18 And also we can use this information for monitoring  
19 moose habitat, for example. Where we have fires, where we  
20 don't have fires, where we possibly need fires to improve  
21 habitats. Our fire management in Alaska overall has probably  
22 not been very beneficial to most wildlife resources. And we  
23 also can -- we're hoping to be able to identify at least some  
24 qualitative evaluation of caribou habitats on a large scale.  
25 We have an ability to separate out certain production levels of  
26 lichen ranges so we can see if we have above or below a certain  
27 threshold. We can at least tell changes from that over time as  
28 well.

29  
30 Minor projects that we're going to be doing, we have a  
31 botanist, she's going to be working with the University of  
32 Alaska at Fairbanks and the Unalakleet Drainage mountain  
33 country mostly looking for rare plants. This particular area  
34 close to the Seward Peninsula has a lot of rare plants that  
35 kind of cross over from Siberia and so on. So there's a lot of  
36 rather uncommon plant aggregations in this region of the State.  
37 And this portion of the Nulato Hills has never really been  
38 looked at in any detail. And that's -- partially this is  
39 probably related to threatened and endangered species type  
40 surveys or special status plants on a worldwide-type basis.

41  
42 We're also looking at with the Fish and Wildlife  
43 Service in the very, very south end of 22(A) where the refuge  
44 lands are. And right next to the refuge lands are some BLM  
45 lands. They're looking at evaluation of a reindeer permit down  
46 there and we may or may not see applications to start grazing  
47 reindeer in that part of the refuge and on those BLM lands  
48 again.

49

We have not got the applications yet but we've been for

00116

1 the last two years in the evaluation process whether those  
2 ranges can handle reindeer herds of various sizes. Other than  
3 that I guess we have one fellow doing some breeding bird  
4 surveys on the Unalakleet River in the Wild and Scenic River  
5 Corridor. We have some bird communities out here of some of  
6 these birds that go clear to South and Central America that  
7 tend to go clear to Western Alaska in the summer and nest. And  
8 some of those are some fairly sensitive species that they're  
9 trying to monitor their populations and the whole hemispheric  
10 type basis. So he'll be doing that work in June.

11  
12 Other than that I'm willing to answer any questions you  
13 might have, or I can give it a try anyway.

14  
15 CHAIRMAN SHELDON KATCHATAG: You made a statement that  
16 some of the Nulato Hills haven't been looked at as far as some  
17 of these plants. I just wanted to add, by the Western society.  
18 They've been looked at forever and ever. But any questions for  
19 Mr. Denton? Comments?

20  
21 MS. DEWHURST: Jeff, are you going to mention the  
22 harvest monitoring?

23  
24 MR. DENTON: Oh, yeah, I could do that. Donna has  
25 copies. I don't know, have you got copies for the Council?

26  
27 MS. DEWHURST: No, I don't.

28  
29 MR. DENTON: Over the last year we had an individual  
30 here in Unalakleet, or a couple of individuals try to get a  
31 handle on a real harvest distribution of moose and caribou and  
32 bear for the subsistence users here. So we have a lot better  
33 idea of the contribution of the BLM Federal public lands versus  
34 the corporation lands in terms of what those lands are  
35 providing for the subsistence base here in Unalakleet. And to  
36 get a better idea of the contemporary distribution of harvest,  
37 how far people go to harvest various species, how many are  
38 taken, the effects and relative age of those animals,  
39 locations, mostly to help down the road.

40  
41 What we most importantly want to do is to be able to  
42 protect for subsistence users the areas that are most critical  
43 where most of their subsistence resources will come from over a  
44 consistent long period of time, the areas that they depend on  
45 year after year. Those are the ones that we have to pay the  
46 most attention to to protect those resources to make sure  
47 they're available through the long term for the local users.

48  
49 And the Fish and Game data over the years has never

50 really provided that. And the data we have is excellent data.

00117

1 The folks that have been doing that work for us here have been  
2 extremely accurate and extremely diligent. One year's data is  
3 preliminary. We would like to do this for five years to have  
4 at least an idea of bad winters, good winters, when the caribou  
5 come down, when they don't come down, what people have to do to  
6 obtain the subsistence resources they need to do.

7  
8 CHAIRMAN SHELDON KATCHATAG: Helen.

9  
10 MS. CROSS: Are they going to be putting that -- having  
11 that put into the CPD -- the computer program database?

12  
13 MR. DENTON: I would like to wait until the five year  
14 summary. I think would be most appropriate. One year at a  
15 time really isn't appropriate I don't think. And we'll be  
16 doing the same thing with my village as well.

17  
18 CHAIRMAN SHELDON KATCHATAG: So who's doing the  
19 monitoring here?

20  
21 MR. DENTON: Tom Sherman has been doing it for the last  
22 year. He's a pretty active hunter here in town and he actually  
23 came to us and volunteered to do it. He may not be able to  
24 continue that. He's suggested somebody to replace him and  
25 we've got to talk to the individual and see if that individual  
26 is going to be able to do it because it takes a little bit of  
27 time and quite a bit of effort. I think we pay him for that  
28 service because it takes a lot of time and a lot of effort.

29  
30 CHAIRMAN SHELDON KATCHATAG: Are there any plans to do  
31 any bear surveys?

32  
33 MR. DENTON: Only cursory ones. We tried to in general  
34 terms when the -- especially in the years when the pinks are  
35 running, to hit the peak of the pink run to fly bear surveys  
36 when they're concentrated on the fish. That's not a real  
37 accurate way of doing things, but it gives us some generalized  
38 trends, we hope. And that's basically what we've been doing  
39 here for the last three or four years.

40  
41 The one thing we've been seeing is an increase in black  
42 bear populations here. Real apparent increases in black bear  
43 populations here.

44  
45 CHAIRMAN SHELDON KATCHATAG: Do you think they're  
46 migrating over from the Yukon?

47  
48 MR. DENTON: Actually, from what I've seen, it's pretty  
49 high productive rates. We see a lot of sows with three cubs



50 and a lot of those cubs are making it on their own, they're

00118

1 surviving, you know, to at least weaning. And so there's --  
2 that's at least what we've been observing.

3  
4 CHAIRMAN SHELDON KATCHATAG: I kind of think that might  
5 be having brown bear problems if the black bears are going up.

6  
7 MR. DENTON: There's a possibility of that, yeah.  
8 There's possibly a niche opening up for black bears.

9  
10 CHAIRMAN SHELDON KATCHATAG: Okay. Any other questions  
11 or comments for Mr. Denton? None. Thank you, Mr. Denton.

12  
13 MR. DENTON: Thank you.

14  
15 CHAIRMAN SHELDON KATCHATAG: We'll go ahead and recess  
16 until 9:00 a.m. in the morning.

17  
18 (Off record)

19 \* \* \* \* \*

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C E R T I F I C A T E

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UNITED STATES OF AMERICA                    )  
  ) ss.  
STATE OF ALASKA                                )

I, Joseph P. Kolasinski, Notary Public in and for the  
State of Alaska and Reporter and Owner of Computer Matrix, do  
hereby certify:

THAT the foregoing pages numbered 02 through 118  
contain a full, true and correct Transcript of the Seward  
Peninsula Federal Subsistence Regional Advisory Council,  
Volume I, meeting taken electronically by Dorothy Wenzel on the  
4th day of February, 1997, beginning at the hour of 9:00  
o'clock a.m. at the Kattimivak Center, Unalakleet, Alaska;

THAT the transcript is a true and correct transcript  
requested to be transcribed and thereafter transcribed by Mary  
E. Miller to the best of her knowledge and ability;

THAT I am not an employee, attorney, or party  
interested in any way in this action.

DATED at Anchorage, Alaska, this 14th day of February,  
1997.

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JOSEPH P. KOLASINSKI  
Notary Public in and for Alaska  
My Commission Expires: 04/17/00